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is published THIS DAY.

Contents

- I. THE ARUNDEL SOCIETY—FRESCO PAINTING.
- II. HORACE AND HIS TRANSLATORS.
- III. CARDINAL WISEMAN'S FOUR POPES.
- IV. JAMES WATT.
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LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1858.

LITERATURE

Geology and Mineralogy considered with Reference to Natural Theology. By the late Rev. William Buckland, D.D. A New Edition, with Additions, by Prof. Owen, Prof. Phillips, Mr. Robert Brown; and a Memoir of the Author. Edited by Francis T. Buckland, M.A. 2 vols. (Routledge & Co.)

EMINENT geologists generally exhibit some promise of their future eminence in the science during the earlier years of their lives. Buckland's attention to fossil organic remains was occasioned by the fact, that his birthplace was at Axminster, near which town quarries of lias abound in the organisms of that rich formation. Both father and son collected the Ammonites and other lias shells, which thus became familiar to the child from infancy. The town is in the immediate vicinity of the most illustrative coast sections of the lias, which also display its connexion with various other overlying secondary deposits of oolitic and cretaceous rocks, and the underlying masses of the New Red Sandstone. Wherever the boy wandered he saw proofs of antecedent life, underneath his feet, and around and above him. Residing not far from the sea-coast, he gained that knowledge which an inland-born child seldom acquires. Proceeding to Winchester School, William Buckland became familiar with the chalk formation, from the fact that the pathway to the playground on St. Catherine's Hill passed close to large chalk-pits abounding with sponges and other fossils. Upon becoming a candidate for a Scholarship in Corpus Christi College, Oxford, vacant in consequence of "Young Coplestone" of that college having taken orders, he succeeded; and afterwards in his journeys to and from Axminster to Corpus, through Charmouth, he purchased specimens of lias fossils, which were brought for sale to coach passengers by collectors from the cliffs between Lyme and Charmouth. He took his first lesson in field geology in a walk to Shotover Hill with Mr. W. J. Broderip, whose early knowledge of conchology enabled him to speak scientifically on the fossil shells in the Oxford oolite, and afterwards on the greensand shells of the Vale of Pusey, near Devizes. Buckland himself writes,—"The fruits of my first walk with Mr. Broderip formed the nucleus of my collection for my own cabinet, which in forty years expanded into the large amount which I have placed in the Oxford Geological Museum." In studying this first and other similar early collections, he soon developed that peculiar power which characterized him through life—of catching up and assimilating with marvellous rapidity everything that illustrated the then new science of fossil organic remains; and he gave evidence to observant companions that he was born to impart the knowledge of petrifications to what was, at that time, the most classical and clerical of all petrifications—Oxford:—

"Those persons who, like myself, [says Sir R. Murchison] can go back to the days when Dr. Buckland was an inmate of Corpus Christi College, can never forget the impression made upon his visitors, when, with difficulty, they discovered him in the recess of a long collegiate room, seated on the only spare chair, and buried, as it were, amidst fossil bones and shells. So strange was this conduct considered by the graver classicists, and so alarmed were they lest these *amanitates academicæ* should become dangerous innovations, that when he made one of his early foreign tours to the Alps and parts of Italy, which enabled him to produce one of the boldest and most effective of his writings, an authoritative elder is said to have

exclaimed—"Well, Buckland is gone to Italy; so, thank God, we shall hear no more of *this geology*."

Buckland made his first tour of the centre and north of England in 1810, exploring the then unknown history and extent of every stratum he came near, and colouring the results on Carey's large Map of England. He mentions this excursion in an address to a local society in characteristic style:—

"It had been his lot, nearly a quarter of a century ago, to take possession, within this country, of a large manor—a manor that interfered not with the rights of noble lords or gentlemen, but a scientific manor, in which whatever he had done was convertible, if they pleased, to their pecuniary advantage. It had been his lot, (before he obtained the assistance of his kind friend the Dean of Llandaff,) alone, during three of the most interesting weeks of his life, to travel in solitude—his only companion being that Ordnance map which he had geologically coloured on the spot—over the whole of the Mendip, from one end to the other, for the first time that it was ever traversed by any individual of the human species."

Geological excursions in those days could not be made in comfortable and swift railway carriages as now. Then a geologist must either ride or walk. William Smith, the "Father of English Geology," was too poor to ride, except when employed as a land-drainer. He therefore walked over a large part of England. Buckland, however, had means to mount, and performed nearly all his geological excursions on horseback, the horse imbibing a decidedly geological taste, as is thus intimated:—

"He rode a favourite old black mare, who was frequently caparisoned all over with heavy bags of fossils and ponderous hammers. The old mare soon learnt her duty, and seemed to take interest in her master's pursuits; for she would remain quiet without any one to hold her, while he was examining sections and strata, and then patiently submit to be loaded with interesting but weighty specimens. Ultimately she became so accustomed to her work, that she invariably came to a full stop at a stone quarry, and nothing would persuade her to proceed until the rider had got off and examined (or, if a stranger to her, pretended to examine) the quarry. On one occasion Dr. Buckland was in some danger from the falling stones as he was climbing up the side of one of these quarries. He was told of his danger by the bystanders. 'Never mind,' said he; 'the stones know me.'"

Having been elected Reader in Mineralogy at Oxford, in 1813, he became a Fellow of the Geological Society, and took his place among the most eminent and active inquirers into the physical history of the earth. So eloquently did he plead for the study of natural sciences and primeval nature, that he awakened, both in the University and elsewhere, an interest in Geology which led to its public recognition as a science by the endowment, in 1819, of a Readership in Geology at Oxford,—a stipend of 100*l.* per annum having been allotted from the Treasury, at the instigation of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent. Most appropriately was Buckland appointed to the new chair. He did not discharge its duties perfunctorily. He did not crystallize into a mere deliverer of an old course of lectures, interlined upon occasion; but he nearly always made a new set of manuscript notes for each set of lectures, and his son has deposited two large boxes of these notes, full of interesting particulars, in the Clarendon Museum at Oxford.

His museum, bequeathed to the University, is well known. Prof. Phillips, his successor, proposes that it should be called the "Bucklandian Museum." It is admirable, not so much for the number of specimens as for their rarity and beauty. If a good specimen was to be had for money, the Doctor would

have it, and he expended a large portion of his private fortune in adorning his cabinets. Yet we ourselves heard at Oxford and Stonesfield how cheaply he procured many of his fossils: several of the country people would often on market-days bring in "curiosities" to the Doctor, and readily give them to him if they knew him. Certain it is, that were he to reappear and collect now from Stonesfield, he would find the market had risen, as merchants say, and, hardest of all, that a Duke has entered the pits, and become an irresistible competitor for teeth, jaws and bones. Even a Dean would cede priority to a Duke.

Most married geologists and collectors of specimens have found that wives are not helpmates in their favourite science. With wives flounces are preferable to fossils, and in these days amongst the ladies crinolines are more in fashion than *Crinoidea*. Many a collector in private bewails the lamentable fact that his dearest fossils have in his absence been destroyed, or despicably treated by his dearest friend. Buckland, however, was fortunate beyond his competitors in his wife. Hear what the son testifies of his mother as helpmate to his father:—

"During the long period that Dr. Buckland was engaged in writing the book which I now have the honour of editing, my mother sat up night after night, for weeks and months consecutively, writing to my father's dictation; and this, often till the sun's rays, shining through the shutters at early morn, warned the husband to cease from thinking, the wife to rest her weary hand. Not only with her pen did she render material assistance, but her natural talent in the use of her pencil enabled her to give accurate illustrations and finished drawings, many of which are perpetuated in Dr. Buckland's works (see several drawings in Vol. II. of this Treatise, likewise in Cuvier's 'Ossemens Fossiles'). She was also particularly clever and neat in mending broken fossils; and there are many specimens in the Oxford Museum, now exhibiting their natural forms and beauty, which were restored by her perseverance to shape from a mass of broken and almost comminuted fragments. It was her occupation also to label the specimens, which she did in a particularly neat way; and there is hardly a fossil or bone in the Oxford Museum which has not her handwriting upon it. Notwithstanding her devotion to her husband's pursuits, she did not neglect the education of her children, occupying her mornings in superintending their instruction in sound and useful knowledge. The sterling value of her labours they now, in after life, fully appreciate, and feel most thankful that they were blessed with so good a mother."

In 1832 he presided over the Second Meeting of the British Association, at Oxford.

"On this occasion [says his son] he gave a lecture on the summit of Shotover Hill to a large class of the members of the Association, both veterans in science and ladies. He took the opportunity of enforcing the importance of the application of a knowledge of geology to agricultural improvement; pointed out many defects in the ordinary system of drainage, which could be remedied by a knowledge of the structure of the strata; and adverted to the possibility of reclaiming the bogs of Ireland. He also gave a lecture on the fossil remains of the Megatherium, recently imported into England from South America; and I well remember his causing one of his children to sit inside the huge pelvis of this extinct beast, to give an idea of the vast proportions of the enormous brute when in life."

Like all thorough geological lecturers, he knew that the field was his forum—the quarry his pulpit. Hence we find that—

"after having gone through some of the grammar of geology, he was anxious to impress on the minds of his class the facts he had mentioned, and to allow them, by actual inspection and observation, to learn the meaning of 'stratification, denudation, faults, elevations,' &c., the true meaning

of which terms, he frequently asserted, 'could never be learnt in a lecture-room.' He would often, therefore, give out as a notice at the end of a lecture, 'To-morrow the class will meet at the top of Shotover Hill, at one o'clock,' or, 'The next lecture will take place in the field above the quarries at Stonesfield,' or, 'The class will meet at the Great Western Railway station at nine o'clock; when in the train, between Oxford and Bristol, I shall be able to point out and explain the several different formations we shall cross; and if you please, we will examine the rocks, and some of the most interesting geological features of *Clifton and its neighbourhood.*'

Of his great work, the Bridgewater Treatise, we say no more than we have said with reference to this new edition. Of his promotion to the Deanery of Westminster, we would remark, that his sermons were in stones and not in churches. Sir Robert Peel declared that he "never advised an appointment of which he was more proud, or the result of which was, in his opinion, more satisfactory." Assuredly, in one sense, Buckland did become an orthodox theologian, for all the while he was Dean, he "looked unto the rock whence he was hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence he was digged." He never forgot his geology in his theology; and, from what we see of his sermons, they were certainly practical, if not evangelical. He was versed in sanitary science, if not in doctrines. He left a large collection of manuscript sermons, and these his son assures us are, "for the most part, earnest and eloquent exhortations on thoroughly practical matters; seldom directed towards the deeper points of doctrinal theology; they are impressive when read, and were, as I well recollect, striking in delivery."

He was not a mere student of organic remains, but also a practical geologist, and knew something of the value of different rocks for architecture. This knowledge stood him in good stead as Dean:-

"As Mr. Cundy, the builder, will testify, Dr. Buckland looked very sharply after the masons when repairing Westminster Abbey, or any other of the collegiate buildings in which he had any interest, examining the various kinds of cements, the blocks of building-stone, the means adopted to repair and keep in order the regal and other monuments, and taking special care that no faulty bits of stone, &c., were used. Many years ago, when the turrets of 'Tom Tower,' of Christ Church, Oxford, were undergoing repairs, during the long vacation, he had reason to suspect that all was not right. It was almost impossible for him to ascend by the slender scaffolding to these turrets; so, from the window of his house (he was then Canon of Christ Church) he bethought him of watching the masons through the telescope (a very good one, with which he used to examine distant geological sections, &c.). At last the unsuspecting mason, working, as he thought, far above the ken of man, put in a faulty bit of stone; my father, on the look-out below, detected him through the telescope, and almost frightened the man out of his wits, when, coming out into the quadrangle, he admonished him to bring down directly 'that bad bit of stone he had just built into the turret.'

The Glacial Theory, now so widely accepted, was first brought before the British public by Buckland, and was noticed in this journal [*Athen.* No. 682]. It shows his openness to new views, and his zeal in examining their alleged proofs, that he traversed the defiles of Snowdon, and the wild tracts of Scotland, searching for *striae* and scratches and grooves. Several papers contributed to scientific journals testify to his zeal and accuracy. He also visited Westmoreland and Northumberland with the same object. There he had a companion who has also been our own in the same parts. His witty tendencies could not be repressed on this occasion, for-

"with his ready pencil this gentleman hit off a capital semi-caricature of Dr. Buckland, who, encumbered with numerous heavy cloaks, thick travelling boots, bags of fossils, and rolls of maps, presents a figure fancifully like a glacier. The sketch is entitled 'The Costume of the Glaciers.' Dr. Buckland is represented as standing on a smooth bit of rock, covered with scratches, under his feet; and the explanation is thus given:—'The rectilinear course of these grooves corresponds with the motions of an IMMENSE BODY, the momentum of which does not allow it to change its course upon slight resistance.' By his side are drawn, 'Specimen No. 1, scratched by a glacier, thirty-three thousand three hundred and thirty-three years before the Deluge.' Specimen No. 2, 'scratched by a cart-wheel on Waterloo Bridge, the day before yesterday.' The whole picture being 'Scratched by T. Sopwith.'

We read some particulars of his activity when Dean of Westminster, which make it manifest that he was not disposed to luxuriate sluggishly under the shadow of the Abbey. Though advancing in years, he "rose," observes the editor, "soon after seven, and worked on incessantly till two or three the next morning, allowing himself scarcely any time for meals, and still less for recreation; and notwithstanding his important occupations, he still found time to travel to and from Oxford, to lecture on his favourite science. His natural strength of body, and his indomitable energy, enabled him to persevere in this course for a while; but at length, at Christmas, 1849, I saw for the first time symptoms of the tottering of his mental powers; he complained that he could not get through his work, and that his papers were in confusion. This was the prelude to a long and serious illness, which overshadowed the later years of his life, and obliged him to live in retirement." The real cause of the cerebral disturbance by which he was afflicted, was never suspected during life, and was only ascertained after death. It was then found that the brain itself was perfectly healthy in every respect, but the portion of the base of the skull upon which the brain rested, together with the two upper vertebrae of the neck, were discovered to be in an advanced state of decay. Dr. Buckland died August 24th, 1856, at the advanced age of seventy-three, and was buried in the spot he himself had chosen in Islip Churchyard. A list of his papers read before Societies and contributed to periodicals is appended to this Memoir. They are unexpectedly numerous. Twenty-one years have elapsed since the last edition of the well-known Bridgewater Treatise was published, and it has become a scarce book, bringing nearly its original publication price for second-hand copies. This is not to be wondered at, for it was the best illustrated of the whole series of richly-rewarded essays. It has also continued to be about the best general introduction to the study of organic remains; and in the shape of this new edition it may even now claim to be the most popular and easily studied book of the kind. The possessors of the old edition of 1837 have the advantage of earlier impressions of the same plates or cuts, and upon comparing them with those in the new edition we are thankful that we possess the old one. The new issue, however, presents 90 plates, and the old but 69—a better *Megatherium* appearing in the present, and some few other additions.

As regards the text, the editor informs us that the original fabric has been surveyed by three masters of their various sciences (viz., Profs. Owen, Phillips, and the late Robert Brown, the botanist), from which survey the weaker points have been strengthened, and that small portion which recent discoveries have shown to be erroneous has been expunged or modified. "The

actual argument, regarded sacred, has been left in its original purity, as it received its last polish from the mind of Dr. Buckland." It does not, however, appear that the eminent men above named have added much more than a few foot-notes to the original text, and we think that the little they have appended scarcely warrants the prominent introduction of their names. Very much more might have been given even in notes, and a vast number of additions might have been made to the argument cumulative in the direction of natural theology.

Fiji and the Fijians. Vol. I. *The Islands and their Inhabitants.* By Thomas Williams. Vol. II. *Mission History.* By James Calvert. Edited by George Stringer Rowe. (Heylin.)

Fiji, Feigee, Fidgee, Fidje, Feejee, Feegee, Fejee, Fejee, Fidchi, Beete, Vih, Viji, or Viti, is a part of the world concerning which Grand, Triple, and Quadruple treaties are silent. It is inhabited by certain brethren of the human family of whom we have not the least reason to be proud. Like another quarter of the globe, it has its peculiar institutions. In fact, one Fijian will eat another. The costliest delicacies among the islands are baked legs and devilled fingers. This being the case, it must be owned that the gentlemen who first had the courage to become Fijian missionaries are to be complimented upon their enthusiasm, especially as they took with them ladies and children upon whom Ra Undreundre or Ra Vatu—heroic eaters of men—might have been supposed to glance with a dainty eye. But to the danger of living among cannibals must be added the disgust of their presence, the moral nausea of conversing with wretches who have just licked from their lips the blood of a human being, the types of Burke's *Sans Culottes*, whose only question concerning a fellow man was "how he cuts up, how he tailors in the cawl, or on the kidneys." However, in these two very interesting volumes—the first descriptive, the second historical—we have not only a variety of fresh pictures from the remarkable Fiji group, but the story of a social reformation which, although the Mission narratives may exaggerate its results, has certainly been a vast service to the aborigines. Throughout the principal islands, cannibalism has become almost extinct, though it still lurks in a few savage and dismal recesses; polygamy, in many important districts, is now rare; infanticide is diminishing; human life is held to be, if not sacred, at least not a jest; better relations exist between the chiefs and people. Therefore, the accounts given by Mr. Williams, long a missionary in the Pacific, apply to a former rather than to an existing state of things, to Fiji as it was from the days of Cook and Bligh to within a few years ago. We here see the grotesque barbarian not "wild in woods," but with a government, a polity, distinction of classes, manufactures, and luxury, a feeder upon human flesh, a woman-strangler, and a slave to the most brutalizing of vices. Yet even this being has traditional recollections of Europeans whose atrocities have startled him. About fifty years ago, several convicts escaped from New South Wales to Fiji, where they allied themselves with certain chiefs, who, awe-struck by their fierceness, regarded them as more than human, and were willing to pay any price for their co-operation in battle. The twenty-seven white settlers might probably have obtained complete supremacy in the group had they conceived any such ambition; but in a short time most of them were dead—killed in the native wars or in their own quarrels. The best of the band,

a Swede, was murdered and eaten. In 1840, however, one still survived, an Irishman known as Paddy Connor:—

"His influence among the natives was so great, that all his desires, some of which were of the most inhuman kind, were gratified. The King of Rewa would always avenge, and often in the most cruel manner, the real or fancied wrongs of this man. If he desired the death of any native, the chief would send for the doomed man, and direct him to make and heat an oven, into which, when red-hot, the victim was cast, having been murdered by another man sent for the purpose. Soon after the death of his patron, Paddy Connor left Rewa. He was thoroughly Fijianized, and of such depraved character that the white residents who had since settled in the islands drove him from among them, being afraid of so dangerous a neighbour. At the close of life his thoughts seemed only occupied about rearing pigs and fowls, and increasing the number of his children from forty-eight to fifty."

The two hundred and twenty-five islands and islets, coral and volcanic, of the Fiji group, appear dreamlike in their beauty to the voyager who sees them come up gradually on the horizon of the Pacific. Their landscapes are exquisitely fanciful in outline and colour. But, until recently, there were some disadvantages in peeping and botanizing in these insular paradises. The local fashions, as we have said, were inconveniently unique, which Mr. Williams proves by his record of the penalty inflicted on Fiji conspirators:—

"His friends prepared him according to the custom of Fiji, by folding a large new *masi* about his loins, and oiling and blacking his body as if for war. A necklace and a profusion of ornaments at his elbows and knees completed the attire. He was then placed standing, to be shot by a man suitably equipped. The shot failed, when the musket was exchanged for a club, which the executioner broke on the *Vasu*'s head; but neither this blow, nor a second from a more ponderous weapon, succeeded in bringing the young man to the ground. The victim now ran towards the spot where the King sat, perhaps with the hope of reprieve; but was felled by a death-blow from the club of a powerful man standing by. The slain body was cooked and eaten. One of the baked thighs the King sent to his brother, who was principal in the plot, that he might 'taste how sweet his accomplice was, and eat of the fruit of his doings.'"

The natives divide themselves into six classes:—kings and queens, chiefs of large islands or districts, heads of towns and priests, distinguished warriors of low birth, and chiefs of the carpenters and turtle-fishers, common folks, and slaves taken in war. To the grandees a degree of homage is paid amounting almost to worship. They have the best fruit, fish, and pork; and for disrespectful conduct towards a Fijian lord the least punishment is the loss of a finger:—

"Warrior Chiefs often owe their escape in battle to their inferiors—even when enemies—dreading to strike them. This fear partly arises from chiefs being confounded with deities, and partly from the certainty of their death being avenged on the man who slew them. Women of rank often escape strangling, at the death of their lord, because they are not at hand men of equal rank to act as executioners."

The happiest day of the year for the Fijians is that on which they pay their taxes. Then they put on their richest attire; then they paint their faces black or scarlet, wear colossal hair-pins of tortoise-shell, polish their clubs, and become delirious with gratification. Next in the order of rejoicing is a victory, when children are hung up by the feet, or baked alive, when the maidens dance and sing like mad bacchanals, and warriors carve the dead for their evening feast. Upon these occasions the Fijian displays the height of barbaric splendour:—

"The art of wig-making, in which the Fijian excels and glories, seems to be unknown to the other islanders. The native *perruquier* imitates to perfection the hair as worn by chiefs and dandies. The style, however, which he has to copy, is considered admirable in proportion as it becomes more successfully unnatural; and hence his task is made easier. Some wigs, except as to colour, closely resemble the barristers' wigs of our own civilized courts, and some have a complete set of whiskers and moustaches attached."

Mr. Williams's descriptions of the island manufactures, domestic architecture, and canoes are particularly curious, as well as his accounts of the turtle fisheries and the trade in red parrots. Reverting to the social condition of the Fiji, he remarks:—

"Both on the coast and inland, the population has diminished within the last fifty years, probably one-third, and in some districts as much as one-half. The chiefs do not migrate, as it is said was formerly the custom with the Hawaiians; so that every town ruined in war is a proof of a diminished population. Another strong evidence is the large quantity of waste ground which was once under cultivation,—more than can be accounted for on the principle of native agriculture. Except where the smaller islands have been entirely depopulated, the larger ones show the clearest signs of decrease in the number of inhabitants—a decrease which has been very great within the memory of men now living, and the causes of which, beyond doubt, have been war and the murderous customs of heathenism."

The original character of the islander is thus summed up:—

"The savagery of the Fijian has a more terrible badge, and one whereby he is principally distinguished by all the world,—his cruelty is relentless and bloody. That innate depravity which he shares in common with other men, has, in his case, been fostered into peculiar brutality by the character of his religion, and all his early training and associations. Shedding of blood to him is no crime, but a glory. Whoever may be the victim,—whether noble or vulgar, old or young, man, woman, or child,—whether slain in war, or butchered by treachery,—to be somehow an acknowledged murderer is the object of the Fijian's restless ambition."

We are inclined to suspect some unintentional hyperbole both in this and in the statement of missionary reforms presented in Mr. Calvert's volume. But Mr. Williams has a number of anecdotes in illustration of his view. The sort of pride exhibited in Fiji is not, however, without its parallel in other regions:—

"A chief on Thithia was addressed disrespectfully by a younger brother: rather than live to have the insult made the topic of common talk, he loaded his musket, placed the muzzle at his breast, and, pushing the trigger with his toe, shot himself through the heart. I knew a very similar case on Vanua Levu. But the most common method of suicide in Fiji is by jumping over a precipice. This is, among the women, the fashionable way of destroying themselves; but they sometimes resort to the rope. Of deadly poisons they are ignorant, and drowning would be a difficult thing; for, from infancy, they learn to be almost as much at home in the water as on dry land."

In the figurative language of Fiji, a human body intended for consumption is called "a long pig." Pigs, in fact, form the staple of Fiji animal food. At grand festivals they are baked whole:—

"On these occasions profusion is always aimed at: waste is the consequence, and want follows. At one public feast, I saw two hundred men employed for nearly six hours in collecting and piling cooked food. There were six mounds of yams, taro, *vakalolo*, pigs, and turtles: these contained about fifty tons of cooked yams and taro, fifteen tons of sweet pudding, seventy turtles, five cart-loads of *yaqona*, and about two hundred tons of uncooked yams. One pudding, at a *Lakemba* feast, measured twenty-one feet in circumference."

Merry as the banquet may be, woe to him who violates etiquette!—

"A Naitasiri chief was on a visit at Makongai, attended by some of his Mbatis. Before one of these he ate part of an old cocoa-nut, which, in the estimation of the Mbati, was a luxury, and, as a piece was not given to him, he deemed himself insulted. Intent on revenge, he shortly joined the enemies of his master; and a victory which they subsequently achieved, gave the offended Mbati the opportunity he desired. He intercepted his former chief, who was fleeing for life, and who, on seeing him, reckoned on his help, asking to be spared; but the unforgiving vassal replied, 'It is in my mind to spare you; but, Sir, the nut! Do you not remember the nut?' For that you must die.' The word was followed by a death-blow. Another case concerned a chief of Tai Vungalei. He sat down to eat with his father-in-law, and a cooked guana was provided for each. In passing the one intended for his father, the young man broke off part of its tail. A dark scowl covered his relation's face at this, and, at an early opportunity, he slew his son, having first told him that he could not brook the insult put upon him by the breaking of the guana's tail!"

The illustrations accompanying Mr. Williams's volume are not little striking. They represent the Fijian chief in full dress, half his face vermilion, half ebony black, or with two or three bright variegated lines between the nose and the ear; his wig resembles the section of a vast beehive, or a Roman helm, or a colossal carriage mop:—

"I have often girted men's heads which were 3 feet 10 inches, and one nearly 5 feet, in circumference. A coating of jet black powder is considered superlatively ornamental; but its use is forbidden to the women, who, however, in common with the men, paint themselves with vermilion, applied in spots, stripes, and patches."

As if deliberate in their repudiation of civilized ideas, these good islanders play on the flute through the nose. Young men and women wrestle together in Spartan sport, and sometimes they get up a formal sham fight:—

"In the cases which I saw, the attack was made by women on a number of male visitors. They waited until food was brought to the men, and then rushed on their guests, endeavouring to disperse them, and take away the food. The men, either from custom or gallantry, merely retaliate by taking the women captives, or throwing them gently on the ground. The women, however, were not so mild; and I was acquainted with instances of men dying from the violence of their blows. One Amazon engaged in this sport shot a man dead with an arrow."

Nevertheless they have an admirable way of asking a lady in marriage—a very plain and candid style of speech:—

"Simioni Wangkavou, wishing to bring the object of his affection to decision, addressed these homely remarks to her, in the hearing of several other persons: 'I do not wish to have you because you are a good-looking woman; that you are not. But a woman is like a necklace of flowers,—pleasant to the eye and grateful to the smell: but such a necklace does not long continue attractive; beautiful as it is one day, the next it fades and loses its scent. Yet a pretty necklace tempts one to ask for it, but, if refused, no one will often repeat his request. If you love me, I love you; but if not, neither do I love you; only let it be a settled thing.'"

"Jealousy among wives," said a Fiji woman to Mrs. Williams, "causes hatred, and then the stronger tries to cut or bite off the nose of the one she hates." Accordingly, noseless beauties are not uncommon in the islands. But, after one or two more glances, we must send the reader to the book itself for further glimpses of art and nature, of manners and caprice in Fiji, where people are laid out and shrouded before they are dead, or "put out of their misery," and sometimes even buried alive to save trouble.—

"Ratu Varani spoke of one among many whom he had caused to be buried alive. She had been weakly for a long time, and the Chief, thinking her likely to remain so, had a grave dug. The curiosity of the poor girl was excited by loud exclamations, as though something extraordinary had appeared, and, on stepping out of the house, she was seized, and thrown into her grave. In vain she shrieked with horror, and cried out, 'Do not bury me! I am quite well now!' Two men kept her down by standing on her, while others threw the soil in upon her, until she was heard no more."

When a woman is to be strangled in honour of her husband, she is nicely oiled, spotted with yellow or vermillion, placed on her knees, kissed, veiled, her head held down, and strangulation effected with a white cord. It is seldom that she struggles or complains. The climax of this "social science" is arrived at when we read of the renowned Fiji cannibal, Ra Undreundre of Rakiraki:

"Even Fijians name him with wonder. Bodies procured for his consumption were designated *leve ni bi*. The *bi* is a circular fence or pond made to receive turtles when caught, which then becomes its *levena*, 'contents.' Ra Undreundre was compared to such a receptacle, standing ever ready to receive human flesh. The fork used by this monster was honoured with a distinctive epithet. It was named *Undroundro*; a word used to denote a small person or thing carrying a great burden. This fork was given by his son, Ra Vatu, to my respected friend, the Rev. R. B. Lyth, in 1849. Ra Vatu then spoke freely of his father's propensity, and took Mr. Lyth nearly a mile beyond the precincts of the town, and showed him the stones by which his father registered the number of bodies he had eaten 'after his family had begun to grow up.' Mr. Lyth found the line of stones to measure two hundred and thirty-two paces. A teacher who accompanied him counted the stones—eight hundred and seventy-two. If those which had been removed were replaced, the whole would certainly have amounted to nine hundred. Ra Vatu asserted that his father ate all these persons himself, permitting no one to share them with him. A similar row of stones placed to mark the bodies eaten by Naungavuli contained forty-eight, when his becoming a Christian prevented any further addition."

This book on Fiji is welcome; and, in spite of the horrible details interspersed, will interest many readers beyond the missionary circle.

Phantastes: a Faerie Romance for Men and Women. By George Mac Donald. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

MANY are called by the Muses sitting high on the Sacred Hill, but few have the power or the purpose to go up and reach the poet's crown. Many start with their bright upward look, and reach a little way up the Parnassian slopes, who soon grow dizzy with the ringing cheers from below, and there they are arrested by the enchantment. Others, again, appear to take a few steps, and then get lost in a mist. No sooner have they breathed the finer air than they lose their foothold and reel off into space. There they wander, making a dumb show which no mortal can understand. They cannot come near us to strike a warm human hand into ours, nor can they touch the earth to climb up higher. We look upon each other in reciprocal helplessness. Either from weakness or wilfulness, the author of this book slides off the edge of earth to join the phantom company. He seems to have lost all hold of reality. In 'Within and Without' we welcomed a poet of promise and of power, for its quiet yet effective presentation of a rich-natured woman, and its subtle delineation of half-angel, half-elfin child-life. In his next volume of 'Poems' he was half lost in dreamland, and yet such a poem as that on the 'Child-Nurse' showed how the writer might reach reality with almost Words-

worthian strength of feeling and simplicity of speech. In 'Phantastes' Mr. Mac Donald has attempted an allegory in prose, which reads as though it had been written after supping too plentifully on German romance, negative philosophy, and Shelley's 'Alastor,' and then, instead of his having mounted Pegasus to ride it off, he seems to have been ridden himself by a nightmare. If we speak of this book in metaphors, we must be excused, for we cannot help it. Any one after reading it might set up a confusedly furnished second-hand symbol-shop. The author says on the title-page, "In good sooth, my masters, this is no doo. Yet is it a little window, that looketh upon a great world." In good sooth, we have seen little through it save a wilderness of wildernes. Surely it is of ground glass. Or is there not a central crack which breaks every passing image with its fatal flaw?

Allegory shows us life moving with its shadow. This shadow may represent humanity in grotesque caricature, or as reaching to a loftier stature, but together they move—Life and Shadow—with their double existence and their double meaning, so perfectly that, according to binocular mind-vision, they may be seen as one. Now the great masters of allegory succeed by their firm grasp of reality, and they always give such a compelling interest to the life-figures that a man may and a child must follow them and their movements independently of the secondary meaning, which is shadowed on the background. We may read the 'Faerie Queene,' and the allegory is quite optional. Without that inner meaning there is quite enough in the outer life of that marvellous tale of chivalry,—enough in the real men and women with which we are floated down an enchanted stream of poetry in their brave beauty and immortal strength. See also how Bunyan holds fast by the life as though he knew if that were true the shadow would be sure to fall right. By some happy naming of person or place he will thrust the very handle of his meaning into your hand. You may see the shadow, but he takes care to make you feel the reality. Mr. Mac Donald has given us the shadow without the life which should cause it to him, and account for it to us. Thus 'Phantastes' is a riddle that will not be read. He has made his voyage into Dreamland with the phantom bark, but when he tries to bring it home to us and reveal something of the far wonder-world we cannot get on board. He has not anchored fast to the earth on which we stand.

We might attempt to divine the meaning of some of the personifications to be found in this allegory, and show, though in a glass darkly, that we could dimly identify some of the aspects and moods of mind intended in these vague hints, but we really should not like to take away the pleasure from curious inquirers. Curiosity is the likeliest faculty of the reading mind to be attracted to this book, and that we are quite willing to stimulate with a few brief quotations, because of the power there is in some of the writing. Here is a picture of the knight who represents Action:—

"One evening, as a great silent flood of western gold flowed through an avenue in the woods, down the stream, just as when I saw him first, came the knight, riding on his chestnut steed. But his armour did not shine half so red as when I saw him first. Many a blow of mighty sword and axe, turned aside by the strength of his mail, and glancing adown the surface, had swept from its path the fretted rust, and the glorious steel had answered the kindly blow with the thanks of returning light. These streaks and spots made his armour look like the floor of a forest in the sunlight. He stood there a mighty form, crowned with a noble head, where

all sadness had disappeared, or had been absorbed in solemn purpose. The few words he spoke were as mighty deeds for strength."

From the snatches of song we take a little lyrical lit.—

Alas, how easily things go wrong!
A sigh too much, or a kiss too long,
And there follows a mist and a weeping rain,
And life is never the same again.

Alas, how hardly things go right!
'Tis hard to watch in a summer night,
For the sigh will come, and the kiss will stay,
And the summer night is a winter day.

And a cheerful out-of-doors call, which Nature is not making at the present moment, for with her, as with her friend Mr. Jarndyce, the "wind's in the east."—

Mother Earth

Sits with the children of her birth;
She tendeth them all as a mother hen
Her little ones round her, twelve or ten :
Oft she sitteth with hands on knee,
Idle with love for her family.
Go forth to her from the dark and the dust,
And weep beside her, if weep thou must ;
If she may not hold thee to her breast,
Like a weary infant, that cries for rest ;
At least she will press thee to her knee,
And tell a low sweet tale to thee,
Till the hue to thy cheek, and the light to thine eye,
Strength to thy limbs, and courage high
To thy fainting heart, return again,
And away to work thou goest again.

Mr. Mac Donald saw the spirits of all the flowers in fairy-land, and this he tells us is the fairy of the daisy:—

"A little, chubby, round-eyed child, with such innocent trust in his look! Even the most mischievous of the fairies would not tease him, although he did not belong to their set at all, but was quite a country bumpkin. He wandered about alone, and looked at everything with his little hands in his pockets, and a white nightcap on, the darling! He was not so beautiful as many other wild flowers I saw afterwards, but so dear and loving in his looks and little confident ways."

Very similar to the daisy of our every-day world; only with us the little fellow does not wear the white nightcap about his brow, except when the night comes on, or when it is pulled down by the teasing rain. But what a story we could tell of our daisy, his ways and wanderings, from the May-morning on which he smiled up in old Chaucer's fond fatherly face, until the day on which Jerrold christened him with human tears as the "Forget-me-not of Death." Our world beats faerie-land, after all, as the following account of hereditary transmission will prove:—

"Now the children, there, are not born as the children are born in worlds nearer the sun. For they arrive no one knows how. A maiden walking alone hears a cry: for even there a cry is the first utterance; and searching about, she findeth, under an overhanging rock, or within a clump of bushes, or, it may be, betwixt grey stones on the side of a hill, or in any other sheltered and unexpected spot, a little child."

A very convenient theory, and one which hath, ere now, done service in the upper world; but we do not see that the fairies improve upon the gooseberry-bush and parsley-bed of inquisitive childhood. We close 'Phantastes' with a feeling of sadness. One mistake is said to be permitted to every writer of books: Mr. Mac Donald has made his. Happy is the author who makes only one!

Sixty Years' Gleanings from Life's Harvest: a Genuine Autobiography. By John Brown, Proprietor of the University Billiard Rooms, Cambridge. (Cambridge, Palmer; London, Willis & Sotheran.)

The name on the title-page of this volume may probably awaken some reminiscences among certain classes of Cambridge men. These may have often heard portions of John Brown's story, and—like Desdemona, who was

not happy till she listened to the life of that eminent general, Othello, told by himself—they may now sit down and learn all the incidents of the well-known John Brown's little-known life, from the Autobiography recounted by the proprietor of the University Billiard Rooms, and bearing the smiling *vera effigies* of the author.

John has something to tell, and he accomplishes his task well, modestly and pleasantly. Denizen of Barnwell, life opened upon him not disagreeably. He was a thriving butcher's son, but the opening view of life speedily suffered a momentous change. Little Brown early found himself in the midst of ruin, deaths of his natural protectors, and sorrow that seemed interminable. He endured slavery, fatigue, thirst, and famine, as a young "drover"; and starvation and cruelty, and unmerited imprisonment, as a shoemaker's apprentice. A wanderer about London streets, not idling, but in search of work, he never lost heart. Banyan days formed a good, or rather bad, portion of the week, but out of hardly-earned pay for scanty work, the heroic Brown contrived to spare enough to enable him to see Shakespeare from the shilling gallery, and to read Milton and other glories of England, as he sat by his lapstone, "at home." But, in spite of the poetical oasis in the terrible desert which he had to traverse, his life was one of bitterness; so much so that he enlisted in order to better it. After some service, he was so disgusted with the tyranny to which he was subjected, that he did what disgusted general officers have done before now, without much censure,—namely, made himself judge of his own case, and withdrew; or, Brown being a private soldier, we must say deserted, for

That in the captain's but a choleric word
Which in the soldier is flat blasphemy.

The world before him, not where to choose, but with the hardest part of it to fall upon, Brown joined a strolling company, and shared the profits which fall to the members of such associations. These were unproductive enough to wake in our "philosophical vagabond" all his patriotism. He had resigned his unenviable position in the army, without consulting the superiors, who would have been too much attached to him to accept his resignation; but he be思t himself that war was raging, that he had no right, having taken the King's shilling, to withdraw from the King's, or rather his country's, service. He only reserved to himself the right of selecting the particular "service" least disagreeable to him, and forthwith he volunteered into the navy. The performance of a certain duty, and not the acquisition of glory, was his chief object; and the object was not without a savour of heroism. There was a spice of the old Roman spirit about it, *officium* being the gingerbread, and *gloria* only the ragged gilding fluttering on end about it.

Brown served in the fleet when the press-gang horrors were at their height, and the accidents and natural results of such a system are told by him in unexaggerated phrases which horrify by their details. And yet it is the restoration of this system of horrible tyranny, the most oppressive to which a free people were ever capriciously subjected, that the Earl of Hardwicke publicly advocates. The "seizure of men" of the humble class, to which the men required usually belong, presents nothing to the Earl's sight but what is highly pleasant and satisfactory. He may rest assured, however, that whether "my lords" have reserved the right to make "seizure of men" or not, the press-gang and catchpoll crews of Tower Hill and the sea-ports are things that have passed away.

Brown, the volunteer, who was treated no less savagely on board than if he had been a pressed man, and a skulker to boot, served creditably to the end of the war. Then recommenced his battle of life on shore, the vicissitudes of which set the narrator in the light of a sort of *Gil Blas*. There is, as there should be, something of love in this hard life, and serious as the drama is, there is a wedding and also a dance in it, after the approved fashion of the dramas in which Brown usually acted when he was not at other work. Finally, the ups and downs settle into a level line; the wanderer and straggler settles in his native city, and there prospers in the establishment of which he is now the proprietor. The drover-boy built up again a home in which his aged mother ended her days;—that was something for his affection, and the same boy, shoemaker, soldier, sailor, actor, and Jack-of-all-trades, so pursued the honourable tenour of his way that he became a town-councillor,—and from his comfortable hearth-nook, his robes of office near him, and close by, his "cues," which have brought him better fortune than any he had to do with on the stage, he dedicates the humble records of his active life "to the authorities of this ancient University, whose favour I have largely experienced, and to the municipal corporation of my native town, in whose councils I have had the honour to share." And what can we say to such a conclusion except "Well done, Brown! May the other members of the firm—namely, Jones and Robinson—follow your example, and live to don the robes of town-councillors, and be cited as hope-inspiring models to young stragglers in life's mud."

John, it will have been seen, played many characters. We proceed to show some incidents of the dramas in which he took part, and how he himself looked in some of his "presentations." We pass over some of old Richardson's fair-dodges, when the cry of "John Audley!" was a signal to drop the curtain, as another audience had collected outside, and was ready to enter. We turn to matter characteristic of the times when savages oppressed the men of whom the Government had made "seizure." Brown has been describing a flogging scene on board ship:—

"I once heard of a horrible revenge taken upon a petty officer, who was constantly in the habit of reporting men and getting them flogged. The vessel to which he belonged was chasing a privateer, a fast sailer which had captured several English merchantmen; and on this occasion, in order to get the ship into good sailing trim, gratings loaded with eighteen-pound shot had been slung in different parts. One of these was over the main hatchway; and as the man in question was descending in the dead of night, this heavy weight of metal was let down upon his head, crushing him like a spider." * * There were other modes of punishment, which under some circumstances were very severe. There is a man now living in my neighbourhood, who was on board a brig in the French war: and being an able seaman was once set to look out on the bowsprit;—it was on the coast of Norway. There came on a furious storm of sleet and hail, which so battered his face and eyes that he could not see (as he has told me) half-a-mile ahead, and then only at intervals. The commander by-and-bye hailed my friend and told him to come in, 'as there was land on the starboard bow.' Now the officer had the aid of a powerful glass, which also protected his eye, whilst the man was nearly blinded by the driving wind and sleet: still, for not performing an impossibility, the latter was ordered aloft to sit on the cross-trees for four hours in the most inclement season of that frozen climate. The result was that when the time had expired, he was fixed there a sitting statue, with every joint rigid, his flesh numbed, and without a particle of feeling left."

Misery, according to the proverb, makes us acquainted with strange bedfellows. Here are samples of some to whom, as companions, one might object without being fastidious:—

"There are two orders of 'rooks,' deriving their titles from two notorious houses used by rival factions: and there is nothing like them on earth or elsewhere. One class takes its name from the 'Crow' public-house in Moor-lane, which the founders of the order, by a little stretch of fancy, corrupted to 'Rook,' thinking that a more appropriate cognomen. This particular class are not very nice about the quality or fit of their clothes, nor whether they are their own or another person's; their suits are usually very much dilapidated, and in general without buttons, which were indeed superfluous,—seeing that they invariably brace themselves up with a long waxed thread, easily replaced when worn out. This thread passing through loops of the same material fastens under the collar of the outer garment, with a slip-noose, so that they have no trouble to undress; one pull at the string, and their entire suit falls off as if by magic. The other class of rooks have their head-quarters at a house called the 'Gully-hole,' in Brown-bear court, Moorfields; they are called members of the pin-and-skewer, from their never using either ties, loops, or buttons. If they have the misfortune to get a rent in any part of their dress, they as soon as convenient either pin or skewer it up; thus you see them very oddly ornamented from top to bottom with alternating pins and skewers. Between these two bodies some little jealousy has existed for nearly two hundred years, and whenever they meet there is sure to be a fight."

Of adventurers of a different quality, and of a wretched betrayer who survives them, the following record is made:—

"At the eating-house in Milton Street I dined with several of Thistlewood's gang, the well-known Cato Street conspirators—Davidson, Tidd, Ings, Brunt, Gilchrist, and others; this being the locality where many of them resided, and where their insane plot was hatched. Amongst them, on this occasion, was the treacherous and cold-blooded wretch Edwards, the government spy and chief instigator of the contemplated atrocities. I well remember, after the execution of his poor deluded victims, having seen him soused with stinking water from the shoemaker's shop-tubs, as he sneaked through the narrow courts and alleys; he was a most repulsive and cadaverous looking wretch. Another of this lot was, to my knowledge, little better: being one of the most sneaking cowardly knaves that ever disgraced the form of man; he still lives not half-a-mile from my dwelling, and imposes upon the benevolent by pretending to be religious. I will give a sample of his doings. Some time ago there was in residence a Fellow of St. John's College, a very charitable man: but one who indulged in that virtue to an admired extreme. Being in Holy Orders, he was accustomed to visit the poor, and amongst the number called upon this miserable trickster, who so wrought upon the good man's simple nature as to make a tolerable property out of sheer weakness. Whenever the amiable dupe of this dirty knave was seen to approach, the latter would call to his wife, 'D— your eyes, you —, down on your knees: here's L— w coming!' Thus did this worse than infidel impose upon his unsuspecting victim. I have been told that he has been known to go to Mr. L— w's rooms at breakfast time, and so work upon his feelings that the good soul has allowed the knave to clear the table and dispense with his own meal. Thus, between his hypocritical practices and parochial relief obtained by false pretences, the fellow has managed to live in idleness for years."

Of Cambridge reminiscences there are perhaps fewer than might have been expected, but of these, here is a sample, touching Cambridge theatricals:—

"Cambridge was always strong in the dramatic line, but never more so than at the period under notice. I have already made mention of the Garrick and University clubs; but there was a third society called the 'Shakespeare,' to which nobody in particular belonged; its ostensible 'head

and front' being the same party whom the University men had enabled to build the theatre, then existing in Jesus-lane. This man's name was Andrew J. Tempany; he was not, I think, of Cambridge origin, but had come out of the Midland counties, and was by trade a paper-stainer. He did not lack talent, and had an off-hand, 'devil-may-care' way of doing business, that made him rather popular with the Undergraduates of the day. The said Andrew was, in truth, equally reckless and improvident at home and abroad; he seemed to prefer a 'hand to mouth' state of existence; and his ordinary habits possibly engendered the quickness and fertility of resource that I have sometimes witnessed in him. T.'s favourite rôle was *Pangloss* in 'The Heir-at-Law'; and on a certain occasion when dressing for this part, (an operation which he had, as usual, deferred until the last moment,) the indispensable black silk stockings of the 'LL.D. and A.S.S.' were nowhere to be found. 'No time to lose,' quoth Andrew, 'too late to send anywhere; must paint *these!* Here, you sir, fetch that bucket here—take up the brush, and lay on!' But the black paint would not take kindly to the white cotton 'continuations.' The case was obviously hopeless; *Pangloss* would never have been fit to appear that night, but for the intervention of a master-stroke. Andrew's genius was however equal to the emergency. 'Take 'em off altogether,' was his decision, 'and paint *me!*' Painted he was accordingly, from the knees downward; and, as his legs were ever and anon 'touched up' during the evening, I am not aware that this cool expedient ever became patent to the public."

Here is John in his billiard-room.—

"On a certain occasion, the celebrated Tom Egan had, by fine play, holed two balls at pool: and there being two others remaining to be put in, a question arose as to the odds about his holing both. Being appealed to, I gave it as my opinion that the odds were twenty to one against it. The striker at once said he would accept the bet: but there being no takers, it was insisted that I ought to back my opinion not by the striker, but by the company, who began to insinuate that I had not delivered correct judgment. 'Very well,' said I, '—just to satisfy you, I will for once break a custom.' The bet was therefore made in sixpences. The striker proceeded in breathless silence; the first stroke was accomplished in beautiful style: the ball quivered on the edge, but dropped gently into the pocket. By a delicate touch of the side stroke, which required the nicest precision, he had brought his own ball into such a position as to render the second hazard barely possible. All were now anxiously awaiting the result; at length the ball came like a shot from the striker's cue, and catching the object ball on the very out-line, cut it two feet down the cushion into the corner pocket, amid the most tremendous cheering and hammering of cues upon the floor, that was ever heard in a billiard-room. In admiration of this marvellous performance, I paid down twenty sixpences: in order that all parties present might bear it in remembrance."

We conclude with a rare cribbage incident.—

"I recollect a very remarkable instance of sheer luck occurring at the game of cribbage, in which, as noticed in some earlier pages of these memoirs, I was once tolerably proficient. This case arose whilst I was playing with three others. We were playing five-card cribbage: and, it being my deal, our opponents wanted four of the game; whilst our peg stood within eight holes of home. The cards were played round without scoring a fifteen, sequence or pair; and at the conclusion not one of the four held a hole. I then took up the crib, which contained the exact number required to win the game! This is, I should think, the most wonderful incident that ever happened at cribbage. Perhaps Professor Babbage could inform us how long, according to the law of chances, it will be before the like can again take place."

Meanwhile may John Brown's "sequences" be those of happiness, and his "flushes" all of good fortune, till he pegs his last hole, and the game is closed.

Two Years in Syria. By J. Lewis Farley. (Saunders & Otley.)

THE Syria of our days, Mr. Farley assures us, is equal in opulence to the Syria of twelve hundred years ago. It has no Haroun; but it has the gold that filled Al-Raschid's coffers. The late Chief Accountant of the Ottoman Bank at Beyrouth appears, indeed, to have found the Enchanted City. A less fortunate pilgrim, it is related, started from his dwelling in quest of this immaculate home, traversed continents and oceans with his face always to the sun, and never saw the sign to halt until, after five years' wanderings, he had reached his own back-door! Not so with Mr. Farley. He found his terrestrial paradise on the sunny fringe of Syria. Dim is the Tyrian purple, and vanished are the palaces of mellow marble that gleamed from the golden coast; but the valleys still yield their treasures of grain, the juvenescent white mulberry-tree supplies the silk-stores of Lyons; from Alexandria to Scanderboon, Beyrouth shelters the commerce of Syria. It is building new streets; its merchants are erecting mansions of Venetian grandeur; its natives are gradually adopting the Frank costume; property is safe, murder unknown; ladies may explore the country unguarded. Moreover, Mr. Farley reports that Beyrouth publishes the only newspaper in Syria, the first number of the *Hadikat-el-Akbar* having appeared there in January last, under the editorship of a young poet, Khalil-el-Khouri, who inaugurated his journalistic career by an elaborate article on the launching of the Leviathan. Nevertheless, traces of past barbarism remain; men concentrate their wealth at home; ladies wear their dowries on their heads, which blaze with brilliants and golden coins; all classes seem still to fear a rush of predatory lances over the flower-painted slopes of Carmel, over Zabulon and from Tabor. But these are only reminiscences of tribulation. Go to Syria, is Mr. Farley's advice; go especially to Beyrouth, instead of France or Italy, and it will be found a delightful winter residence. It has its European schools and its book-club; it reads the *Quarterlies* and the *Athenæum*; rents are moderate, hotel charges not extravagant, the most refined enjoyments cheap and of infinite variety. And then it is deeply, pictorially, chastely Oriental—sweet in its plenitude of flowers and fruit, romantic in its contrast to Europe,—a region in which Nourmahal might live, without wearing thick shoes or taking cold.

It is but fair to add, that Mr. Farley justifies his enthusiasm by minute descriptions of Syrian life as it exists at the present day, and that the picture is not a little fascinating. His elaborate itinerary of a Beyrouth house is enough to orientalize the least inflammable imagination. He succeeds, also, in piquing our interest when he gossips of the sights to be enjoyed during a mountain ramble—landscapes tenderly tropical, and Maronite princesses, like little sunrises, on the footpath, all gauzy and golden like the magical moon-born ladies in extravaganzas. Add to this, that a Syrian welcome is elegance itself:—

"Of all the different modes of salutation in various countries I think there is none so graceful as that which prevails here. At New Guinea the fashion is certainly picturesque; for they place upon their hands the leaves of trees as symbols of peace and friendship. An Ethiopian takes the robe of another and ties it about his own waist, leaving his friend partially naked. In a cold climate this would not be very agreeable. Sometimes it is usual for persons to place themselves naked before those whom they salute as a sign of humility. This custom was put in practice before Sir Joseph Banks when he received the visit of two Otaheitan females. The inhabitants of the Philip-

pine Islands take the hand or foot of him they salute, and gently rub their face with it, which is at all events more agreeable than the salute of the Laplanders, who have a habit of rubbing noses, applying their own proboscis with some degree of force to that of the person they desire to salute. The salute with which you are greeted in Syria is at once most graceful and flattering; the hand is raised with a quick but gentle motion, to the heart, to the lips, and to the head, to intimate that the person saluting is willing to serve you, to think for you, to speak for you, and to act for you."

A book on the East would be an anomaly without a full, true, and particular account of the Bath, and without communicated facts concerning the method adopted by ladies when snatching that fearful joy. This is Mr. Farley's contribution to the encyclopaedia of soap-sud history,—it is descriptive of a bridal bath:—

"There were between two and three hundred ladies, and some of them were from Europe. They were muffled, according to the fashion, with large white swathings that covered up their faces. As they arrived, they drew up in little bevvies and knots, while their dingy-looking attendants unrolled them, and set them free from their cerecloths, when they appeared tricked out in their gaudy-coloured dresses, and covered with jewellery; then commenced such giggling and clatter of tongues as proved that silence and gravity in this part of the world are only the attributes of the rougher sex. As soon as all had arrived, the music set up, and women with nothing on about the upper moiety of their persons, began squealing and uttering plaintive cries, some of them playing on musical instruments, and beating tambourines. This din was kept up all day, and gave to the scene the air of a festival at a large lunatic asylum. The bride was attended by her mamma, who bustled about as busy as a hen with one chick, and a whole coterie of young female friends, who gave themselves all sorts of ludicrous little airs, and tried to look as important as if the world was on their shoulders, and they had met to settle its affairs for all future time. The heroine herself was dressed with great splendour, but in a rather fantastic and barbarous style; her neck, arms, and breast being all covered with gold coins and pearls strung together, and woven in such a maze, that they formed a complete net-work, and looked like a coat of chain-armour. The rest of the women soon settled round her, like a swarm of flies round a honey-pot, and divested her in less than no time of whatever she had on; then the mysteries of the bath began; the whole crowd going about from one apartment to another, with all manner of strange ceremonies, and making the oddest appearance ever seen. Then a similar operation was gone through to that before described as performed on males, all the ladies frisking about, chattering, squalling, and splashing each other with water, making such a scene and hubbub as appeared to the eyes like Bedlam broke loose."

Luxury still survives on the banks of the Cydnus; where, according to Mr. Farley, most things social remain as they were in the days of the Caliphs, who dwelt in an atmosphere of citron breezes, but who, with all their zechins, could not buy up the future, and were compelled to leave the soil and climate of Syria to their posterity. In spite of some book-making, of a few digressions out of place, and of more "fine passages" than enough, Mr. Farley's account of his two years' residence is agreeable reading.

Athenæ Cantabrigienses. Vol. I. 1500-1585. By C. H. Cooper and Thompson Cooper. (Cambridge, Deighton & Co.)

THE Town-Clerk of Cambridge has done, or will have done, more than all the clerks of the University to remove a striking difference between Cambridge and Oxford. We have here the first volume of the 'Athenæ Cantabrigienses,' the work which is to match the 'Athenæ Oxonienses' of Anthony à Wood, as

continued by Dr. Bliss. When the undertaking is happily completed, we trust the University will institute a monument of gratitude, either by putting the Town-Clerk in all time to come on the footing of a Master of Arts with respect to the use of the public library, or in some similar way.

Oxford was very fortunate in its old antiquary, Anthony à Wood, an Oxford man if ever there were one: for he was born in Oxford, "in a house opposite to the forefront of Merton College," one of the oldest of the foundations; he was educated in that College; he passed his life there; he died there, and was buried "in St. John's Church, adjoining Merton College." He was all his life so earnest a labourer that he was little known even in the University of which he was to be the great historian. He died in 1695, aged sixty-four. His sayings and doings are preserved by Hearne, his brother antiquary. When one told him he had found two or three mistakes in his book, "Have you so?" said Mr. Wood; "I thank you; but I have found three or four score to them." He was passionate, and in his passion would "swear very much." He pretended to be deaf, though he could hear very well. He always carried his stick under his arm,—a thing much taken notice of by those who knew him." He was deeply prejudiced against all Puritans, and he shows it in the most straightforward way. We can hardly suppose he ever had time to reconsider an opinion about current men and things. Accordingly, when we find him saying of a University officer that he acted "according to his usual perfidy, which he frequently used in his office, for he was born and bred a Presbyterian," we read with an allowance which we hold no less than due to the worthy whose whole head was in the collection of past facts. His two great works—the "Historia et Antiquitates" and the "Athene" have long caused Oxford to be considered as one of the best-written corporations in the world.

So far as the *biographical* history of either University is concerned, it would be difficult, and even impracticable, to draw up accounts of those who flourished before the invention of printing. Accordingly, both Wood and Mr. Cooper find it convenient to begin with those who died in or after 1500. Wood's first hero is William Beeth, "claruit 1501,"—and the first very well-known name is Dean Colet, the founder of St. Paul's School. Mr. Cooper's first man is Thomas Rotheram, Archbishop of York, died 1500,—and his first notability is Richard Empson, the rapacious minister of Henry the Seventh. The first volume of the Cambridge work goes down to 1585.

But, though the Universities thus begin together as to the mass of recorded biography, they stand on very different grounds of celebrity in the centuries preceding the sixteenth. Not that there is any very great difference in their real working ages. Throwing away the fables about Alfred, and the equally fabulous accounts of Cambridge which Oxford criticism never allowed to take root, it is certain that Oxford can be proved to be a resort of scholars long before any time of which the same can be proved of Cambridge. Nevertheless, the foundation of colleges and the maturity of university system appear much about the same time in both. Peterhouse—whose silly sons have recently begun to call it St. Peter's, thus giving up a strong proof of antiquity—was founded in the thirteenth century; and University College and Merton cannot be traced higher, though the foundation of the former is said to be only a restoration. Accordingly, both Universities have nearly the same practical commencement. But Cambridge makes

no show in the history of England before the Reformation, as compared with Oxford. While the Oxford clerk was everywhere a popular character, as an impersonation of English independence of thought and love of liberty,—while Oxford was, in fact and in power, an estate of the realm, so that it passed into a proverb that a political commotion there occurring was felt in every corner of the kingdom,—while Oxford, in her literary character, was the rival of Paris,—Cambridge was of little note, and furnishes hardly a passing notice to the historian. It is strange, as times now are, to read the lives of those old English radicals, Wycliffe, Roger Bacon, Grostete, and to figure their University as the fortress of England against *Popery*, meaning the use of the word which can be made *within* the pale of the Roman Catholic Church. But Cambridge was of little fame until it became our fortress against *Popery*, as that word is used *without* the pale. Its active part in our history begins with the Reformation,—and the volume before us, accordingly, contains the lives of Bilney, Yeoman, &c., and of those Bishops of whom it has been said that Cambridge had the honour of educating them, and Oxford of burning them. Not indeed that Oxford burned them, but that those with whom dwelt the power of the faggot knew that Oxford was a safe and snug place to burn in.

No historian has yet traced the causes of the rise and fall of liberal spirit and love of freedom in the University of Oxford. A writer in the Oxford Essays says that the divorce of Henry marks the last time at which the University was in possession of the whole field of mental culture. Happen how it might, the seventeenth century saw the grand old University sunk into the lowest depth of slavery. The divine right of kings had infected those who, in a former day, would have resisted the usurpation of the Pope. It was declared false and impious to say that a man might defend his purse, or a woman her honour, against the personal attack of the king; and all who graduated were made to swear, not only present assent to the doctrine, but assent in all time to come. And this happened in the interval between the two proceedings against Galileo, so often cited as the enduring stigma of the Church of Rome. Both Neal and Hallam, in giving an account of the proceedings against William Knight, in 1622, confine themselves to the account of the political heresies which were condemned. But one of the obnoxious propositions, specially referred to in the oath, was, that the *private subject, man or woman*, might defend himself, or herself, against the private attack of a king: and this proposition was also declared false and impious.

Those who, even while they acknowledge the benefits we have derived from the Great Rebellion and the Revolution, regret that the principle of hereditary sovereignty should have been essentially weakened, must, we think, lay great part of the blame on the University of Oxford. If that corporation had excommunicated and defended the principles of constitutional monarchy, for which their predecessors would have lacked neither sense nor courage,—if the successors of Wycliffe had associated with the divine right the divine limitations of right and the divine methods of enforcing the limitations,—it is probable that the monarchy would never have fallen. Oxford would have been the mediator between the mere loyalist and the mere disturber, the leader of all that was rational and moderate, Hampden and Falkland incorporated in an institution. But the University chose its part otherwise,—and pays the penalty to this day. Few Englishmen

know anything about the old abode of English liberty: all are familiar with the learned body which never swerved in its adherence to the doctrines of slavery, except on one occasion, when its own rights were assailed, and the ghost of William Knight triumphed.

We do not possess the history of the changes of opinion in Oxford, and of the rise of opinion in Cambridge. We want also the history of the literary tendencies of the two places. Cambridge was not originally the school of exact science: this title belonged to Oxford. When Horrocks, one of the greatest among Newton's predecessors, wanted to begin his mathematical studies at Cambridge, he could find no one there to direct him in his reading: and he was obliged to have recourse to the professors of Gresham College, who were mostly Oxford men. It was an Oxford man, Billingsley, who first translated Euclid: it was an Oxford friar who furnished the materials. Recorde, who first wrote in English on algebra and geometry, was an Oxford man. Tunstal, the first scientific writer on arithmetic, was a Cambridge man. In order, however, to provide the materials, such works as the one before us are essential: biography is the food of literary history.

Mr. Cooper's first volume is a biography of Cambridge men of note, arranged in order of deaths, from 1500 to 1585. The plan includes authors, dignified clergymen, statesmen, judges, lawyers, sufferers for opinion, teachers, physicians, artists, musicians, heralds, heads, professors, university officers, and benefactors, with some other distinct celebrities. This plan is rather more extensive than that of Wood, in pretension at least,—for Wood, without much plan, seizes almost every notoriety. The lives are more systematically done than by Wood, the works are better set out, and the authorities incomparably better given; in fact, Wood hardly quotes his authorities, except for special points. All this was to be expected, for the notion of accurate writing is now very different from what it was in the seventeenth century, when the writer himself was much more his reader's authority than he is now. More help is also to be got in our day; Mr. Cooper acknowledges obligations to nearly forty persons. Many slight mistakes will no doubt be corrected in future editions,—especially in bibliography. In this branch of the subject it is impossible to verify all the descriptions of previous biographers or librarians,—and the accounts of books are in a very confused state. We may make a few small contributions on this point. Robert Recorde's "Urinal of Physicke," marked by Mr. Cooper, though in brackets, as of 1547, was published in 1548. We must not allow the first edition of John Bale's biographical centuries to have been printed at *Wesel* for Overton of Ipswich, to the detriment of the Ipswich press, for the book expressly bears "excusumque fuit Gippeswici in Anglia per Johannem Overton, anno a Christi incarnatione 1548." Again, Seton's celebrated logic was printed before 1572,—we have seen an edition of 1570; and Mr. Cooper himself mentions Carter's annotations as printed in 1563, the very year which Ames assigns to the work itself. Such small matters as these are only worth noting as giving occasion to recommend Cambridge men and others to supply Mr. Cooper with any little corrections they may find. Many slight historical links may be filled up. Thus, when we learn that Cranmer married the niece of Andrew Osiander, we should like to see added "the friend of Copernicus, and the editor of his great work." But how can any biographer of Cranmer be expected to have known this?

Mr. Cooper lives in better times than Wood, and shows no marked religious or political bias.

There may be now and then a slight worship of the object of biography. We fancy we see a little of it in the life of Cranmer, a very decided persecutor, who neither in his life nor his death, nor in the Oxford monument, deserves to rank with Ridley and Latimer. According to Mr. Cooper, he "cannot be altogether acquitted of complicity" in burning John Frith; he "to some extent sanctioned" the execution of Friar Forrest; he is "to some extent involved" in the death of John Lambert; it has been "stated by some and insinuated by others" that he was implicated in the death of Anne Askew. He, "there can be no doubt, fully acquiesced in" the death of Joan Boucher, though "it seems" it is not true that he persuaded the King to sign the warrant; it "is to be feared" that he sanctioned the burning of Van Parre; and all these are "some few matters, perhaps rather attributable to the general intolerance of the age than to any particular disposition of the individual." This is an excuse for everybody and everything; but how can we excuse those who were before the age in claiming their own freedom for being no way advanced in allowing freedom to others? Let the age be urged for Mary and for Gardiner; not for Cranmer. The character of this celebrated prelate, when in power, should always be dwelt on as connected with that willingness to save himself which he exhibited when his own turn came. Again, we admit the palliation contained in the appeal to the age when we find that the individual, as in the case of Latimer, did not altogether escape the taint. But Cranmer was, in his day of power, nothing but a persecutor: when he held this opinion, he burned that; when he held that opinion, he burned this; and his own desire was to escape being burned for either this or that. Ethical chemistry utterly repudiates this theory of combustion.

We take our leave of this first volume, with great desire to see the others. Let Mr. Cooper finish as he has begun, and his name will live with that of Cambridge in all time to come, even as the name of Anthony a Wood has lived, and will live, with that of Oxford.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Cosmogony; or, the Records of the Creation. By F. G. S. (Jepps).—The author must be one of Meg Dold's geologists, who "knap the chuckie-stones to see how the world was made." His theory is that the precession of the equinoxes is caused, not by a motion of the earth's axis, but by a motion of the whole *film* of the earth over the internal parts. Accordingly, Judea was on the equator at the creation, and there the first pair had their abode. When Cesar invaded Britain, London was in latitude 40°, the climate of Portugal. We are all going northward, that is northward a-slant, and in a couple of thousand years those of us who remain will want fur cloaks. Either Newton or F. G. S. does not understand the phenomenon of the precession of the equinoxes; this F. G. S. himself tells us in his own way. This motion of the film of the earth of course brings the remains of all climates into the soil. The object is to explain the literal truth of the Mosaic cosmogony; we refer to the book for the way of doing it. We rather doubt the soundness of the author's knowledge of actual opinion. "According to the Copernican system, which is our established astronomical theory, the sun is the centre of the system, and supports the earth in its sphere, in the same manner as the terrestrial sphere supports the orbit of the moon. The earth floats like a balloon, as it were, on the attenuated atmosphere of the sun, and the moon, again, floats on the terrestrial aerial sphere, as the clouds do on the denser atmosphere below them." Where did F. G. S. find all this in "established astronomical theory"? Again, every speculator, though free as the moon to float on his own aerial sphere, is a victim of the other philoso-

phers, and quotes Galileo; who, says F. G. S., "was brought before the Inquisition, and thus died a martyr to the *truths* of science." We never heard, till now, that, as here implied, Galileo never left the Inquisition alive. Nor did we know that "Pythagoras resided in Egypt," though he is said to have visited that country. And we do not believe that Shakespeare ever wrote as follows:—

How charming is divine philosophy!
Beautiful, lovely, and sublime!
A perpetual feast of nectared sweets,
Where no crude surfeit reigns.

Shakspeare had a car; Newton had a perfect conception of the precession; Galileo escaped with life from the Inquisition; Pythagoras lived at Samos and Crotona; and F. G. S., who mistakes all these records of the creation, must learn what is under his nose before we trust him on primeval cosmogony.

A Test-Book for Students. By F. S. Stantial. Part III. (Bell & Daldy).—This is a collection of examination papers, with answers, on the elementary branches of Mathematics. We have already mentioned the previous portions. The questions are fairly chosen; and adapted to the real wants of beginners; so that the book is pretty sure to be useful.

Plane Trigonometry. By R. D. Beaseley, M.A. (Macmillan).—A first Cambridge book, clearly done, and strong in examples with answers.

The Six Legends of King Goldenstar. By the late Anna Bradstreet. (Smith, Elder & Co.).—This is a posthumous poem, by an unknown authoress, of higher scope and more finish than the crowd of poems which come before us. 'King Goldenstar' may be read as a legend or an allegory, and, as its title implies, introduces the reader into the pleasant land of fairy. The scenery is soft and glowing, full of lazy, oriental warmth and colour. There is the true tone of Dreamland about it,—though we like the shadows better than the substances, the descriptions than the speeches. King Goldenstar is an indolent Indian king, who endures life in a dainty marble palace, beautiful with birds and flowering trees, and a waterfall. He has no purpose in life, when, as he meditates by the river brink, there rises up, "fresh dripping" from the river, and in the moonlight, a fair lady, who wears a wreath of lotus-flowers. She is, in fact, the spirit of the flower; and she speaks as flowers ought to do, though perhaps a little longer than necessary. She bids the king seek for wisdom and lasting power, and pleasure, through pain and labour,—or, allegorically, for an emerald, a ruby, and a pearl. Having told her name and bidden the king release her from the spell under which she is, Lotus-flower springs into the river, and is hidden among the leaves. The king's life is thus de-

scribed:—

His life became a river of deep thought
That bore upon its moving surface ever
All real things away; they came unsought,
They passed untouched^d, unseen, regretted never;
But left, like froth along the misty shore,
The fret of dull vexation evermore.

Yet in the midst, as on that living stream
Its lilies bloomed, that maiden's memory

Left still its verdant throne amid the gleam;

And as each fading flower replaced would be

By one fresh-blown, her image never died,

New-born for ever on that unseen tide.

There is a gorgeous hunting-scene, with a troop of men "with javelins, that the sun sharpened with light." One of the finest passages in the poem is a personification of Morning. Then come, "like wooters along the level lawn," horses (of a colour we do not like) harnessed to a golden car,—and "in the dew were strewn"

Blush roses under them; and swiftly came
Through the pearl'd grass a damsel, beautiful

With youth, and on her face a virgin shame;

With gold hair scattered to the west wind cool

She ran before the steeds. The minstrel dropped

His pipe, and upward sprang he as they stopped,

And leaped upon the beam; then all around,

Hiding the splendid vision from his sight,

A snow-white mist went upward from the ground;

And when it passed there blazed a rosy light

O'er half the sky—the lawn and woods were flushed,

And all unvilled the waken'd Morning blushed.

The fancy throughout the poem is quick, and light, and musical. Now we glide over "a lawn round, bright, and green as is a drop of rain on a fresh leaf," or we watch the setting sun send

Long golden rays are to rest he go,
Like the waste arrows of a conqueror's bow,
or we puzzle over hieroglyphics which are
Like stairs to blind men's feet, which upward go
Unseen, but that they rise the footsteps know.

Our extracts—and they are far from partial ones—sufficiently indicate the beauty of the poem.

Of the following documents it will suffice to announce their publication:—*Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin.* Vol. VIII., Part I. (Dublin, M. Glaisher & Gill).—*Transactions of the Malvern Naturalists' Field Club.* Part II. (Malvern, Lamb).—*Report on Sewage and Sewer Gases, and on the Ventilation of Sewers.* By Henry Letheby, M.D. (Lowndes).—*The Atlantic Telegraph: a Narrative,* by E. O. W. Whitehouse, (Bradbury & Evans), and a *Reply*, by the same gentleman, to the *Statement of the Directors.* (Bradbury & Evans.)—Three pamphlets which may be classed together are:—*General Introductory Lecture delivered to the Students of the Calcutta Medical College,* by Thomas Thompson, M.D., (Calcutta, Gray).—*The Scope and Tendency of Botanical Study: an Inaugural Address to the Liverpool Infirmary School of Medicine,* by Cuthbert Collingwood, M.A., (Longman & Co.)., and *Middle-Class Examinations: an Exposition of the Society of Arts Examinations, especially intended for Young Men in Business,* by Alexander Richardson (Glasgow, Griffin & Co.).—*Will there be a War between France and England?* is an interrogation on the title-page of a pamphlet (J. Blackwood), which "A Prussian" professes to answer. Special subjects are treated by Mr. Hamer Stanfield in *An Essay on Distinctions between Money and Capital, Interest and Discount, &c.* (Simpkin, Marshall & Co.), and by Mr. H. W. Weston, in *Protection without Imprisonment for all Embarrassed Debtors* (Freeman).—Mr. W. Gowans, of New York, who is his own publisher, has compiled a useful and interesting *Catalogue of Books on Freemasonry and Kindred Subjects.*—Upon Freemasonry we have also *Three Lectures,* by Dr. H. Hopkins, P.M. (Spencer).—Miss Edmond's *Elementary Notes on the History of France* (Tallant & Allen), are like the frontispiece portrait of Louis Napoleon, somewhat dim and rough.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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Aunt Oddcoddad's *Whispers about Little People*, 4to. 1s. bds.
Ballantyne's *Martin Rattler, or the Boy's Adv.* in Brazil, fc. 8vo. 3s. cl.
Benton's *Crook and the Devil*, or 5 Years in Mauritius, 8vo. 4s. cl.
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Brown's *Sixty Years' Gleanings from His Harvest*, p. 8vo. 10s. cl.
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Dickens's *Life*, Lib. Edit. *Sketches by Boz*, post 8vo. 6s. cl.
Dobson's *Poems and Jingles*, by Dobson, Illus. by F. J. Walker, 8vo. 1s. cl.
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Haigh's *Latin Pocket Dictionary*, new ed. fc. 8vo. 6s. cl.
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Moor's *Life of Mrs. John Moore*, Vol. 1, 8vo. 12s. cl.
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Patt's *Tracts on Birds and Beasts* for the Young, 8vo. 7s. cl.
Post Office's *Director of Westmoreland*, 4th ed. 8vo. 12s. cl.
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ON THE "DRAFT OF PROPOSED NEW STATUTES FOR TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE."

The interference of the Commissioners for the University of Cambridge in the Statutes for the government of the individual colleges, is at length beginning to attract public attention. It is well that it should do so, for the public importance of the matter can scarcely be exaggerated. It is difficult to say how much of the bold, frank, social, liberal, English character depends upon the education given to a large proportion of the best representatives of England in the colleges of the two great English Universities. The nation, then, may well regard with attention, even with anxiety, the course which the Commissioners are now pursuing. Setting aside with a breath emended statutes, whose preparation has occupied for a long time the careful consideration of persons well able to judge of the bearing of academical constitutions upon academical instruction, the Commissioners have proposed, *proprio motu*, to substitute new regulations, departing in spirit very widely from those original rules under which the colleges have been so long governed, and from those slightly altered rules which the colleges have suggested as more perfectly adapted to the present state of society. They have boldly commenced with the largest colleges of the University, in the hope, it is supposed, that a victory obtained over these great institutions will be followed by prompt submission of the smaller. It is believed by many persons who have studied the provisions of the Act of Parliament from which the Commissioners have derived their power, that the Commissioners in thus acting, though, perhaps, not exceeding the letter of their authority, have gone very far beyond its spirit. It is believed that their duty, when carefully considered statutes were laid before them, was to examine in detail, and to adopt, modify, or reject in detail; not to sweep the whole away as undeserving of notice, and substitute a new system entirely of their own creation. Leaving, however, this discussion, with no further remark than that I do myself believe that the Commissioners have overstepped their authority, as fairly interpreted, I shall proceed with a few remarks upon the Draft of Statutes for Trinity College—a College of which I have always been proud to consider myself a member.

In the whole realm of Britain there is no institution to which persons competently acquainted with our national establishments have been accustomed to refer with greater pride than this noble endowment. With a degree of liberality in its original plan almost unknown in other colleges,—with a flexibility sufficient to enable it to adapt itself to the wants of progressive ages,—with a severity of rectitude in its appointments, its elections, and its management of trust-funds, that slander has never touched,—with an animating spirit among its members that has tended powerfully to promote the progress of the more modern science and literature not expressed in its ancient curriculum;—it might well have been supposed that the changes to be proposed would be not very large,—that they would be expressly proposed as remedies for recognized inconveniences,—that at any rate they would not be pure experiments founded upon notions which have not had adequate trial elsewhere. What then shall we think of Commissioners who have proposed for this admirable institution organic changes more resembling

those originating in the National Assembly than anything else to which I can in memory refer? And how can we exempt the whole from the charge of rashness, when we find that one part which, if any, might have been planned with rigorous accuracy—the disposal of the College revenues—is almost without foundation? The printed remarks of the Bursar of the College (circulated at first as a private paper, but now become abundantly public) have conclusively shown that the proceeds of the College estates cannot, under any management, be made to produce the sum required by the scheme of the Commissioners, unless the Fellows are reduced almost to the state of paupers.

The amount of change proposed by the Commissioners is so vast that it is not practicable or desirable to advert to the whole at the present time. I shall therefore offer some remarks on only two or three proposals which, as I think, have scarcely received sufficient attention in the papers which I have seen.

Draft, page 1, I. a. "The Master shall be a Member of the Church of England, and at least a Master of Arts in the University."

That is to say, the Master may be a layman.

A layman myself, I protest against this innovation. I state it firmly as my own belief, and as a belief which (so far as I can learn) has been entertained by the wise and good in almost all ages of the world, that no scheme of liberal education in its best sense can be successfully carried out except in an institution of religious character, and under the superintendence of persons ostensibly connected with religion by the tie of ecclesiastical ordination. In this expression, I am confident that I am expressing the sense of the best part of the British nation. In all or nearly all schools of liberal character, raised even a little above those intended for mere commercial education, it is an indispensable requisite that the head-master be an ordained clergyman; and in many that the assistant-masters also be in orders. I do not refer to endowed schools of distant date, nor entirely to the schools of private masters (which, however, would amply support my statement), but more particularly to those which embody, in their regulations, the sentiments of the best class of general English society, namely, the Proprietary Schools. Far be it from me to wish that this feeling should be tortured into anything like sectarian preference of one religious profession among the candidates to another,—the small influence which I possess as an individual voter has always been exerted against it; but I see no difficulty in reconciling this practical impartiality with the superintendence of a churchman; and I cannot consent to sanction the proposed change.

I sincerely hope that this clause may be so modified as to require, as formerly, that the Master be in Holy Orders.

Draft, page 6, XIII. paragraph 8. "The Fellowships shall be open to competition to all members of the University who have attained the degree of B.A., LL.B., or M.B., and whose standing after such degree does not exceed three years."

The strong objection of the University to this proposal has already been expressed, with very few dissentient voices. There are, however, grounds of objection which, I think, have scarcely been sufficiently urged on the attention of the public, and which can only suggest themselves in the first instance to persons well acquainted with the internal life of the Universities.

An English university is not exclusively a place for the acquirement of book-learning. It is in a much greater degree a place of social education. To that large class who bear the title of "non-reading men" it is almost entirely so; to the very "hardest-reading men" it is so in a very great degree. And to this circumstance, more than to any other, the beneficial effects of University education are due. This is thoroughly understood by those who have had occasion seriously to consider the establishment of Universities in places where none have heretofore existed. Some time since, I was (with other persons) intrusted by one of our distant colonies with the charge of selecting the first Professors for a University to be established in that colony. And the hope was particularly expressed that we would send out persons who,

while competent to convey scientific and literary instruction of the highest quality, would "more especially" impress upon the nascent University the spirit of the English Universities, in forming the character of "the loyal, well-bred English gentleman." The book-learning was not overlooked, but it was clearly considered as secondary among the qualities which it was most desired to encourage.

The restriction (in general) of the candidature for Fellowships to the students educated in the same college has tended powerfully to maintain this social education. A promising undergraduate becomes at once the *protégé* of his college. The Fellows look upon him as a person likely to become one of their own body; the undergraduate looks to the Fellows as persons connected with him by no abstract tie, but by a sort of parentage. A feeling grows up more like family affection than anything else. And when (as will always happen with the very great majority of the most successful) the student, afterwards Fellow, is finally separated from his college, there remains a warmth of attachment to the college to which I have seen nothing similar. It is impossible for me here to introduce names and private histories in instance of these feelings; it may suffice for me to say, that I have personally known of more than one example. As an actual instance of the patronage exercised by the authorities of a college towards an undergraduate of talents and industry, I may cite the following from an obituary of the Rev. F. Fallows, first Astronomer at the British Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope, written (as was understood) by a Fellow of Trinity College:—"At St. John's, honourably distinguished (perhaps above all other colleges) for attention to the education and interests of unfriended merit, he found every assistance which could be desired,—kind friends, most able instructors, and an unlimited power of consulting books. . . . Shortly after taking his degree he removed to Benet College, as Mathematical Lecturer, but was gladly recalled to his own college in 1815, when a fellowship became vacant."

It is clear that amid institutions of this kind the best feelings of the human heart are developed and strengthened. Under their influence, as the boy in the well-regulated family, so the young man in the well-regulated college, is trained to the exercise of the virtues of the estimable private gentleman, the social friend, the free but not tumultuous citizen, the independent but not anarchical patriot. What will become of all this if the Fellowships of all colleges are thrown open to competitors from all colleges?

The Fellows will have no interest in promoting the education of any one of their promising undergraduates. He will be considered as a mere lodger, who never intends to establish any friendly connexion with them, and who may be expected, and who is contemplating, at a very early period to sever the slight tie which at present binds them.

The undergraduate will consider himself as merely in a look-out position, surveying the chances of Fellowships as they may drop in on all sides, and ready to make a rush at that particular Fellowship, in whatever college it may be, which will bring in the greatest income at the earliest time. The Bachelor of Arts, instead of quiet occupation in the studies of his college for a year or more after taking that degree (a period which, as is well known, contributes more to his real education than any other time in the college course) will be agitated with the prospect of repeated examinations, conducted by persons of whom he knows nothing and for whom he cares nothing. Instead of being imbued with the liberal and noble sentiments which, as I know, are ingrafted in many students under the present system, the undergraduate and B.A. will be continually occupied with a cold-blooded pelfigging money speculation. Instead of continued calm attention, with the sympathies of the senior members of the college, to the studies of the place, he will be occupied as an isolated being with the fret of often-approaching examination.

Most destructive would such a course be to the best fruits of University education. It seems scarcely to have occurred to the University Commissioners, that—as in politics aristocratic steadiness may be pushed on to oligarchical oppression, or

rational liberty may be exaggerated into democratic turbulence,—as in administration local self-government may become feeble corruption, or centralization may grow into contemptible bureaucracy,—each from being pushed to the extreme,—so the seeming impartiality in the distribution of University prizes may, when urged to the utmost (as proposed by the Commissioners) be made destructive of much that is noble and good in the University.

I anxiously hope that this proposed change of system will not be pressed.

I have written these remarks as with the feelings of a Trinity man. The objections, however, made by the small colleges (as I judge from the earliest papers on the subject which came before me) are even stronger. At present, the equilibrium among the colleges is very well established by the "migration" of a great number of undergraduates who have been attracted to Trinity College by the reputation of the college, but who quit it for a small college at the end of their first year. But the small colleges dread the prospect of being swamped with Trinity Bachelors entitled legally to compete for their Fellowships.

It is to be remarked that the present constitution of the colleges does not prevent the election as Fellow in one college of a person who has received his education in another college. The present Master of Downing was, I think, a B.A. Scholar of Trinity College, but was invited thence to a Fellowship of Downing College. Mr. Adams, of whom the University is justly proud, was a Fellow of St. John's College, but was invited thence to accept a Fellowship of superior value in Pembroke College. These instances are rare, as they ought to be,—but they sufficiently illustrate the flexibility of the actual college system, when flexibility appears to be required.

The only actual inconvenience, so far as I know, in the present state of things is, the comparative irregularity of fellowship vacancies in the small colleges. I would submit for consideration whether, without trenching in an important degree upon the principle which I am so desirous to maintain, this inconvenience might not be overcome by grouping together two or three of the small colleges *quod hoc*. But I am fully prepared to hear that the disadvantages of this suggestion may be greater than those which they are intended to remove.

Draft, page 7, XIV., paragraph 4. "There shall be seven Scholars chosen every year. . . . These Scholarships shall be open to all students who have not yet commenced residence in the University, or who are in the first term of their residence. Provided that it shall be competent for the Master and Seniors to give a preference in adjudging one or more of such Scholarships to excellence in one or more of the learned or Oriental Languages, or in special departments of Mathematics or of Physical Science."

I will advert shortly to the conditions upon which, as I think, the peculiar value of the Trinity Scholarships has depended, and which would be broken through by adopting the first of these provisions without the second. At present I will only express my satisfaction at seeing an attempt made to introduce in a legitimate form studies so valuable, so closely allied to the general course of the University, and at the same time so little known in it, as those of the Oriental Languages. I should be glad to see in the college an "Oriental Language Scholar," or Scholars whose titles bore reference to other special departments, elected either at their entrance into the University or at another time. But I would have them separated from the "Trinity Scholars," for reasons to be explained immediately.

Draft, page 16, XL., 3. "The Scholars to receive a fixed money payment of 60*l.* a year each, such payment to be in lieu of all allowances whatever."

I will consider this paragraph in connexion with the first paragraph of the last extract.

I believe it will be conceded, by those who know the University, that there is nowhere to be found a finer set of students than the Trinity Scholars. This arises mainly from the following causes. First, that the candidates for election to Scholarship must, in the ordinary course of things, have passed five

terms in the college, including the invaluable discipline of the First or Freshman's Year. Second, that the Scholar knows that he occupies, and is recognized as occupying, a statutable position in the college, of which he may justly be considered a puise Fellow. Thirdly, that he has gained the exclusive right of sitting for a Fellowship.

The value set by the Scholars themselves upon the possession of the Scholarship, and upon every indication of it, is very great. And this estimate is entertained by every person interested in their success, both within and without the college. I vividly remember the pride with which a parent (well acquainted with the college) once said to me, "My son is a Scholar of Trinity College." I add to this, that I believe that the living character of the college is formed more completely in the mutual intercourse of the Scholars than in any other part of its members' residence. I attach the very highest importance to the maintenance of this part of the college in its integrity and vitality: and I now proceed to consider the effect which the recommendations of the Commissioners might be expected to produce on them.

In my view, and in the view of the college authorities, it is of great importance that the candidates should not be taken, even when the examination proceeds on equal terms, from those who have just entered the University. The admirable system of the first year at Trinity (I believe that now the same thing may be said of most or all the other colleges) has completely altered the young man. He is no longer the mere schoolboy of longs and shorts, but has entered upon the noble fields of criticism, history, and mathematics; no longer the lad pushed on by the schoolmaster's daily task, but the young man who establishes his own line, both of moral conduct and of study, under a looser surveillance. It is invaluable to him that this should be done under the stimulus of a future competition for the scholarship. In that examination much will proceed its influence which, on the mere face of the examination-papers, will not be detected. Those who can interpret their indications will know that they prove, by evidence constructive but certain, not only the acquirements and talents, but also the steadiness during a considerable period, of the candidate. And while, on the one hand, this delay of election has tended very greatly to secure for the college a table of worthy Scholars; on the other hand, it has forced upon the candidates habits of perseverance and study, under the most favourable circumstances, which will be felt by them as beneficial through life.

The compulsory election of a certain number of Scholars, at their entrance on the University course, would, *pro tanto*, destroy all this. A set of boys would be introduced among the Scholars, not subject to the influence of prospective competition, without the usual motives for securing a good place in the Annual Examination, and not improved in habits by the discipline of the first year. Generally speaking, they might be expected to become soon a disgrace to the Scholars' Table. I see no advantage in the proposal which could possibly balance this danger.

Perhaps I may here appropriately introduce the following private history:—An undergraduate of Trinity College, in whose success I am much interested, suddenly found himself in his first year entitled to compete for an anomalous Scholarship (almost the only one) of the college. He was bound in honour to enter the competition, and he succeeded. His success was to me and to others of his friends who understood his position in the college, a matter of grief. We felt that a most beneficial stimulus was removed, and that the advantage substituted for it could not be named in competition with it. Fortunately, the character of this person, and his subsequent conduct, have sufficiently assured his friends that his course, if he had been still compelled to wait for the ordinary Scholarship Examination, would have been just what it has been, and that when the Examination came there could have been no rational doubt of his success; but still we feel that he was exposed to a dangerous and unnecessary temptation, from which we are thankful that he has escaped.

I earnestly hope that the Commissioners' recom-

mendation of electing Scholars at the beginning of their academical course will be withdrawn.

The other recommendation to which I have alluded affects the indication of the Scholar's position. A Scholar, after examination by the Seniors in the same manner as a Fellow, is formally admitted with the same ceremonies as a Fellow; his position in the College is as well assured as a Fellow's; he bears the title of "Scholar of the House;" his rooms and commons are furnished to him, as part of the College establishment, in the same way as a Fellow's; and he sits in Hall at a table to which no one but a Scholar can ever approach. The proposal of the Commissioners would remove several of these indications of the Scholar's rank, and would do much to lower the dignity of his position. I think that the maintenance of that dignity is very important for the best interests both of the College and of the individual Scholars, and I see no advantage whatever in the mode of paying the Scholars which the Commissioners propose to substitute. In so far as it gives less advantage to residence in the College, I think that the proposal is absolutely mischievous.

I hope the proposal for paying the Scholars a fixed sum will be withdrawn.

The withdrawal from the Scholars of the exclusive privilege of sitting for Fellowships would also lower their position. For this reason, in addition to those before mentioned, I earnestly hope that the alteration of the conditions of competition for Fellowships will not be further proposed.

Draft, p. 8, XVII. "If any member of the College in *statu pupillari* shall not be a member of the Church of England as by law established, he shall not be required to attend [at the celebration of Divine service in the College chapel]."

I would fain hope that this clause has been thrown out merely as a feeler, to excite public discussion, and thereby to lead to a positive expression of public opinion, but not as conveying the proposal or wish of the Commissioners. What! that a boy should be taken at the age of eighteen or nineteen, should be separated from his parents and natural friends, should be placed in a college where the authorities of the college generally, and the tutors in particular, stand *in loco parentis*, and under their care, upon the simple boyish declaration "that he is not a member of the Church of England as by law established" should not be required to conform to any rites expressing a recognition of the solemn, the paramount importance of religion! It cannot be, I would fain hope, that the Commissioners would dare to recommend, or that the country would tolerate such a proposal.

The proportion of persons openly rejecting the Christian religion is so small, that I cannot consent, for their sakes, to dereligionize the whole College. With respect to others, I know too well the difficulty of expressing at moderate length, and the impossibility of urging with any hope of conviction, the reasons for adopting the Anglican Liturgy as proper to be received with respect and to be used by all the students of a Cambridge college. Experience has shown that there is no way of treating such a question, except by every person, who has thought carefully on the subject, enunciating his own conclusions upon his own responsibility. In reviewing, then, the Services of the Morning and Evening Prayer, I remark that there is little, or even nothing, which is objectionable to the principal classes of Christian Dissenters in Britain. A Methodist may object to the numerous subdivisions of the service, but he does not dissent from the doctrine; and many of the Wesleyan Methodists, I believe, receive the Anglican Prayer-book without scruple. A Presbyterian may object to the discipline of the Church Establishment, and to the form which its Liturgy has received, but I do not think that he will hear a single sentence which, in a purely religious sense, will be offensive to his ear—except perhaps the prayer for Bishops. A Romanist, as I know, finds no difficulty; during my own residence in college there were some Romanists who conformed with external propriety (under Papal dispensation, as was believed). A Unitarian will hear much in discordance with his own opinions, but nothing that ought to be offensive to him. But all will hear what

concerns all, and what it is indispensable for the welfare of the future man that the present boy should hear—that man is feeble and erring; that Omnipotence is, as we trust, merciful though just; and that a deeply-grounded feeling of religious humility is the only foundation upon which dignity of character can be built.

I cannot sufficiently express the grief which I feel at remarking that a proposal for such a relaxation of chapel attendance is even uttered under the sanction of the Cambridge University Commissioners.

Many years ago, when I was a resident in College, a scheme was under consideration in two or more Colleges (of which Trinity was one) for a modification of the Liturgy used at Morning and Evening Service in chapel; principally, I believe, with a view to abbreviation, but perhaps also with the intention of removing any sentences which might be supposed unnecessarily to grate on the feelings of College students. The further consideration of this proposal was stopped by reference to the Act of Uniformity. If, after urging my very strong objection to the proposal of the Commissioners, I may properly express my own opinion on the best practical course to be followed under present circumstances, I should recommend, as a point which the Commissioners might advocate with perfect propriety, a slight relaxation of the Act of Uniformity. I believe that a Commission of our Church Dignitaries, acting under the general instruction, of adding nothing, but diminishing somewhat in length, and removing anything which is supposed (reasonably or not) to give offence to the principal classes of Dissenters, would with little trouble prepare a College Service that would be fairly adapted to all classes of students. Be this as it may, I am sure that I shall be supported by every considerate person in the opinion, that every expedient ought to be tried before resorting to the desperate determination of abandoning the rites of religion altogether because a boy declares that "he is not a member of the Church of England as by law established."

I now terminate my remarks on these special articles of the Commissioners' recommendations which I had proposed to myself as subjects of comment. Numerically, they form but a part of those which I think injudicious and injurious. Among those which I pass over generally there is one to which I cannot omit even now to express my strong objection, namely, that (Draft, page 9, XXII., introductory clause) which fixes, in ordinary cases, a peremptory determination to the tenure of Fellowships. This regulation would amount to no less than a total change in the character of the college. It declares that the quiet contemplative life for which the college was in great measure originally intended, shall no longer be recognized; but that money! money! the constant and active striving for money! shall be held out to the Fellows in general as the condition of retaining for a time their Fellowships. Its spirit is the same as that of the proposed open election for Fellowships, to which I have already adverted. But I insist no more on this, or on other points to which I object, because they have already received some notice from others. Those which I have selected for my own detailed comments have not, I think, hitherto received the notice which they deserve.

In conclusion, let me contrast the principles of the system under which the college has been conducted with those of the system which the Commissioners propose to substitute for it. In the old system, a body of Fellows and students, under a general religious supremacy, have been bound together as one family, by such ties and under such motives of conduct as tend to promote the noblest emotions of the human heart: the conditions of admission to the Foundation have been skilfully adapted to improve the moral characters and intellectual acquirements of the students; when the rank of Fellow has been reached, no impediment has been placed in the way of individual exertion for personal gain or advancement, but a retreat has been provided for those who may prefer literary ease with a moderate competency to strife in the struggling world with a prospect of commercial success. In the new system the

religious supremacy is destroyed; the very necessity for reference to religion is abandoned; the social tie between Fellows and students is abandoned, and for it is substituted a mere mercenary competition; the conditions of admission to the Foundation are (to a considerable extent) so altered as to lose their influence on moral character; the tenure of Fellowship is so altered as to make it imperative on every fellow to prepare to enter into the struggles of the world; and from beginning to end the strife for money is to be the one grand guide of the Trinity man, without a single liberal or social motive to enoble it.

Most heartily do I hope that this scheme may never be adopted.

A. B. G.

November 8.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

Palermo, October.

It has been said that Shelley's lyrics are too perfect in their combination of fancy, feeling and melody to bear being set to music. Is Palermo too full of pictures to be painted? If not so, why has it been so shyly touched by those who have worn the Rhine threadbare, and who *almost* make us turn away from another "View on the Grand Canal"? It may be hopeless work to attempt to note a few of the sights which fascinate the eye in the capital of Sicily. To rhyme about them would, indeed, be a rash enterprise,—the best prose must convey but a weak account of one of the richest and most harmonious poems ever set before man to read—an account in which the omissions must be many.

To speak first of the colours of Palermo, to whose magic Goethe, that master of language, paid tribute. Even his charming description of his arrival seems pale if read on the spot. Not merely are the mountains that encircle "the Golden Shell" bold in form and cleavage, various in line, affording every possible play of shadow, demi-tint, and distant aerial hue—they combine in themselves almost every colour of the palette. Grey cliffs and peaks, fissures and declivities in every shade of red and warm brown for evening to emprise,—dusky herbages which the sun bronzes changeably,—the bloom grey of the olive,—the gold and emerald of the young and mature orange-leaves,—the spire of the dark cypress,—the dome-like head of the brighter stone pine—are all here, for a sky of clearest, softest air, and clouds fantastic enough to remind us that we are in *Fairy Morgana's* island, to work their spells on. There, in the midst, is the Mediterranean, opal, or azure, or deep blue, as may be; and curving round this, with its palaces and campaniles and gates, its lighthouses and fortresses and *feluccas*, a city, the general hue of which is the mellow tone of old marble in the South. The combination, in short, of what is delicate with what is sumptuous—of gaiety with force—of noble outlines with captivating details, is complete. It would be hard to name the "one charm wanting." The climate is generally smiling, but even oppressive storm and fierce rain fail to annihilate colour here, as they can do on the Lake of Como, or at Genoa, or at Naples. The picture suffers the most, perhaps, to him who sails in on a bright mid-day, when the sun suffuses every object in an indiscriminate glowing haze; but an evening or morning hour on the *Marina* will set everything right: and few who have enjoyed either will refuse to say with me "Nothing like Palermo for colour."

When entered, the city is full of pictures, apart from august and artistic "lions," which make its highways and byways quaintly attractive, provided the rambler can scold or scowl off the beggars who track him into churches, and wait for his coming out of shops, and whom fair words only encourage into pertinacity. I will spare many words about the churches. That of the Martorana, the Cappella Reale, the suburban Cathedral at Monreale, with their old mosaics on grounds of mellow gold,—their stilted Saracenic arches,—their bands and interlacing circles of *opus Alexandrinum*,—their dim mosque-like nooks, in most of which is pendant some urn-shaped lamp of silver, are as well known to those whom such things concern as the churches of San Vitale at Ravenna, or San Miniato at Florence, or San Ambrosio at Milan. A word

might possibly be put in for such buildings of later date, as those of Santa Caterina, or the Jesuit Casa Professa, where the *barocco* or *Renaissance* style of many-coloured marble ornament is so carried out as to produce an effect of general richness, without obtrusiveness of detail; but this just now would be perilous. As regards wall decoration, it is something like "flat blasphemy" to have a civil thought for picture or pattern more modern than Cimabue or Margaritone. The fair consideration of a possible earnestness different from theirs must be adjourned till the day when the fashion goes out of a blind and deaf allegiance to the semi-pagan barbarisms, among which lie the germs of Christian art,—to the elder Mosaicists of St. Mark's and Torcello,—to the dismal patchers-up of the Gregorian and Ambrosian Chants. Of the frescoes on the vaults of these churches there is not a word to be said, but one may suggest that the oil paintings generally in Palermo deserve more study than has been accorded to them. I do not here refer to those of that remarkable man, the Monrealese, whose finest pictures combine some of the best qualities of Guercino and Ribera, and not the worst of Murillo, with an elevation and invention of their own, but to others without names, or falsely named. By more than one head or group in these I have been arrested, in spite of the verdict gone forth that the churches of Palermo, when not semi-Saracenic or Siculo-Norman, are "meretricious" (epithet alike damaging and hard to prove), and their altar-pieces unworthy of notice as second-class specimens of the Neapolitan school.

Let these hard sayings overset those who love to be overset, and let us come out into the streets. The mile of the *Via Toledo*, from the cumbrously fanciful *Porta Felice* up to the Royal Palace, is like no other main street I have yet seen—narrow, dark, to a large extent walled with palaces. In the lowest story of these, especially in the less showy half of the street, called *Cassaro Morto*, are open shops, where tailors stitch and lapidaries polish agates, or arrivals grim from the sea are suddenly shaved, half out on the causeway. As we advance towards the more opulent centre of the city, we shall find again and again the uppermost windows shut in by a long projecting range of latticed balconies, each announcing its munery. Most of these palaces have lofty *roccoco* porticos, with marble columns, and above these ample balconies, trellised over with the cerulean *Ipomoea*, or decked with roses, oleanders, carnations, *cautious* trees, or other showy plants. Here, everyday, the old romance of the unknown gentlewoman who pierced the heart of the stranger across the way from behind a pot of flowers might begin anew, since Sicilian ladies use their balconies bounteously. The pavement swarms with neat public equipages—it is base to walk in Palermo. Within every hundred yards you meet as much yellow as in one of Domenichino's pictures, for the women delight in shawls of orange, marigold, or canary-coloured crape, which group particularly well on a church floor. This colour might be *Santa Rosalia's* livery, were it not also the livery of the galleys. Here comes the most primitive, most ricketty country carriage (a Neapolitan *corricolo* excepted) ever built to be drawn by one mule—for some nine or more stout men to ride in, sitting or standing. The cart is like a pair of painted tea-boxes laid together on wheels. The two panels on either side are decked with pious pictures in the true Saracen's-head style, always on a mustard-coloured ground, with the number of the vehicle, and sometimes a cheerfully holy motto, such as "Viva la divina Provvidenza." One could watch them and the eager ways of their occupants by the hour together at *I Quattro Cantoni* (the central point of the city, where the main streets cross) from the moveable iron bridge rolled thither to afford means for crossing the hollow *Via Toledo* on a rainy day, were it not for the beggars.

The nose of a blind man would fare far better in Palermo than in Cologne, Marseilles, Naples, or Venice. Gathered roses, orange-flowers, tuberoses, carnations, and Arabian jessamine, greet it at many street-corners. Should he dip into the crooked byways leading to the market—always under flowery

balconies, too often under the flapping panoply of "a great wash"—to buy Muscat grapes, pomegranates, figs, Christian or Indian, he will encounter little worse (provided he avoid the fish quarter) than the fruit smell, and the odour of cataracts of macaroni hung on sticks to dry. This is sickly and doughy; but every antecedent of macaroni, till it reaches the shop, is trying. How little do our *Lady Eglantines* who eat it dream of the all-but-naked men of Amalfi, who leap about among the corn laid to dry in the street to shovel it home should a shower threaten to fall; or who work the press which kneads the *semolina* into paste. In the article macaroni the blind traveller has the best of it. But if his nose does not fare amiss, well-a-day for his ears in Palermo! I heard part of a Mass chanted (it was said) in the *Cappella Reale*, another to which a merry monk played waltzes on the organ by way of accompaniment, in the choir at Monreale. Shocking as these hymns were, the people's speech is more shocking still. I remember a men's dinner at Oldenburg, in 1848, when old and young Germany were exulting in England's downfall at the hands of young Ireland—I have experience of the screams emitted by imperious or terrified cockatoos;—but no animal discord have I anywhere, or any when, heard, comparable to the singing in church of the Palermitan priests, or the "What d'ye lack" in market of the Palermitan women. Should the blind traveller come across a street quarrel, he may be excused for fancying that a new "Vespers" is setting in. Yet Bellini, last, most limited, but most honeyed of Southern melodists, was a Sicilian!

For a Scottish gardener who can conjure up an Eden in Westmoreland or Derbyshire, or among the Fens, Palermo would be a Paradise indeed in its kindness for flowers. For one who loves to walk, its environs are not less winning. But the Briton who does this must puzzle out matters for himself. The shops of the Toledo yield him no such thing as a plan of the environs of the capital, or a practical map of Sicily. The latest chart of Palermo, in detail, which I have been able to find, dates so far back as 1834, and coarse enough it is. For a day or two he may as well resign himself to a carriage and a *cicerone*, since even the unparagoned host of the *Trinacria* Hotel cannot give the pedestrian a clue to the walled, labyrinthine lanes, in which, especially towards the foot of Monte Pellegrino, it is very easy to lose time and patience. But the first tedium over, the variety of repartement afforded by the neighbourhood of Palermo is almost without limit. The climate (of October at least) inspites, not wearies, the walker. However high the temperature be, there is an air from "The Golden Shell" which carries off the heat. On every side he will find a perpetual change of the grandest views, a foreground no less various, and some episodical morsels of the picturesque which he has never enjoyed elsewhere. If, for instance, he goes up to Monreale, climbs the rough shoulder of the *Monte Caputo*, drops down on the Benedictine Monastery of San Martino, and thence to Palermo by the carriage-road, he might fill his wallet twice over with pictures during that circuit of eleven miles,—first, a glorious panorama of the bay and the city,—then striking details of rock scenery,—afterwards the secluded valley of the monastery, the unfamiliar vegetation of which makes him pause, and lets him into the secret of the parti-coloured robes worn by the mountains. For an hour and a half as he winds downwards from the monastery gate he will not see a single vestige of habitation, save the long brown ruin of Castello on a mountain top, seen from so many points of view round the capital. Here and there in the fields—if fields can be called those scratched-up patches of land, partitioned at best by a broken row of metallic-looking aloes—is a weather-stained thing of stone and plaster, something between a pedestal and a tower, hung with weeping ferns. This is one of the *giarre*, or contrivances for distributing water, which are so conspicuous in and about Palermo. If the walker be a botanist, he may loiter for hours with profit. Gradually the valley contracts itself into a rugged glen. Deep in the rift below is the stony track down which a stream is to roar after rain. On the opposite side

—with walnut, orange, olive, cypress, and tamarind trees above—the precipitous bank is bossed with the thick disks of the cactus. Looked at near, this plant may remind him of a heap of green battle-axes strung together without plan or pattern. It grows (as I heard an Irish lady say the other day, one who was affronted at all she saw) "in a manner devoid alike of nature and of grace," but massed on a rocky declivity, or against a ruined wall, the effect of it is capital. One can hardly make better acquaintance with it, than before turning the corner into Boccadifacco. Then, how new is that village! There is hardly room betwixt the splintery peaks of the rocks for the untidy winding street to nestle. The white hovels are all so that the inevitable balconies, each with its pots of flowers and its gossiping women in white, give the place a curious top-heavy, tumble-down aspect. Many mustard-coloured carts, toppling over with company, are jingling down the rocky pavement, for it is a *festivo* day. On the right as we go down, in a little sunken space before the door of a tavern, known as such by the branch of castor-oil plant hung aloft as bush, is a music party. Some fifty men and boys, a few women—all brown as if they were carved out of fig-tree wood, all tolerably clean in their linen—grouped inimitably (with *Tommaso's* arm round *Francesca's* neck), while a guitar and violoncello are performing sprightly mysteries, the tune of which it is not possible for exercised ears even to disentangle. In the background are what venturesome people might call specimens of Sicily's bone—a scarlet Swiss soldier or two. For the moment they are a benefit, as giving contrast and costume to the picture.

I could go on for many a paragraph more—talk of the view from the monastery of *Santa Maria di Gesu*, and its avenue of olive-trees as old as the Saracen times, "composing" so exquisitely with an embrowned crucifix, as foreground to a "prospect" of all Palermo, and here only the *Monte Pellegrino*. I could tell of the magnificent sweep of sea and land (stretching away as far as Etna) commanded by him who clammers up the mountain just named to the gigantic White Lady on the cliff *Santa Rosalia*, but forbear in consideration of the impatience of home readers, even now at home shivering over "sea-coal" fires. The above faint sketch may suffice as offering a sample of the ordinary attractions of Palermo to those who love pictures, and may explain why few who have been there once will relinquish the idea of returning there for a few more bright days.

C.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

In another column appears a letter from a very eminent writer, on the proposed University reform at Cambridge. Our Correspondent has a right to a fair hearing on any question,—and though we, for our own part, should dispute many of his propositions, we very willingly allow his arguments the publicity they seek. No strong cause ever needs to fear discussion, and if the Commissioners be right in their principles and wise in their application—as, for the most part, we conceive they are—the cause in which they serve will only take firmer root in public confidence from this agitation of the surrounding air.

We are glad to hear that the Duke of Devonshire, following up the excellent purpose of his noble predecessor, has authorized Mr. Payne Collier to procure an exact lithographic fac-simile to be made of the edition of 'Hamlet' published in 4to. in the year 1604. It is generally known that the 'Hamlet' of 1603 (of which a fac-simile was distributed about two months ago) was a surreptitious impression of Shakespeare's tragedy, made up from short-hand notes, &c., taken during the performance: the 'Hamlet' of 1604 was printed to supersede it, but whether with the sanction of the author, or of the actors, must remain doubtful. Certain it is that it is at least twice as long as the edition of the preceding year, and the execution of the fac-simile must therefore be a work of considerable time. We believe that only two copies of the 'Hamlet' of 1604 are known: that in the library of the Duke of Devonshire, and another recently discovered, and more recently sold for more than 150*l.* Mr. Payne Collier had the use of both the 'Hamlets' of 1603

and 1604 (besides the other quartos in the possession of his Grace) for his edition of Shakespeare in 1843-4, as well as for his edition in 1858; but the contemplated fac-simile (copies of which will of course be given to the British Museum, to the Bodleian Library at Oxford, to Cambridge University Library, and to many other public depositories) will enable all English scholars and critics to consult them with their own eyes, and to collate the text, on the most minute points, with the utmost facility and confidence. It was a project at one time favourably entertained by the late Duke of Devonshire, by means of fac-similes to render all the first 4to. impressions of our great dramatist's works accessible to such as were interested in the examination of them. His Grace's library is the only one in the world which contains the whole collection.

A total eclipse of the sun was observed, under very favourable circumstances, on the 8th of September last, by Mr. Gillis, of the United States, on board the French frigate *Vialète d'Aignan*, in the bay of Schuora, fifteen leagues south of Payta. The obscurity was so great as to allow the stars to be visible, and the phenomenon of Bailey's Beads was very conspicuous.

The Board of Trade has very wisely resolved to help poor coastmen and fishermen with weather glasses for use on our exposed and dangerous shores. A seaman becomes a sort of rough and ready barometer from experience; yet the quickest eye and the finest nerve will not detect changes in the atmosphere like mercury. Every year boats are overwhelmed—lives lost—from sudden storms, the approach of which a barometer would have told. Glad are we, therefore, to announce that Government has placed a barometer, experimentally, at St. Ives, and mean to place another in Mount's Bay. The Scotch Fishery Board has tried the experiment with success: the Board of Trade having placed barometers at Anstruther, Arbroath, Dunleath, Lerwick, Lybster, Newhaven, Portessie, Rosehearty and Whitehills. Aid of the same kind is much needed in Ireland, and on the east coast of England from the Orwell to the Tweed. Government, we rejoice to find, is employing some of its energy on these useful and unobtrusive reforms.

A branch of the Association for obtaining a repeal of the Paper Duty has been formed in Edinburgh with excellent prospects. The preliminary organization is therefore complete for the Three Kingdoms. A meeting of the Master Printers of the metropolis will be held on the subject next Tuesday week. There is scarcely any difference of opinion to account for or regret. The whole country seems alive to the interests of literature involved in the paper duty, and, if we judge rightly, resolved that this obnoxious tax shall cease.

The Council of the Photographic Society have taken the Gallery in Suffolk Street for their next exhibition. Instead of the two exhibitions held last year, Photography will this year hold a single court. It will open in the first week of January.

A noble man and useful public servant has passed from amongst us in Major-General Sir William Reid, late Governor of Malta. From the day when he explored, loaded, and exploded the mine at San Sebastian, to the day when he returned full of years and honours from Valletta, he was a marked man, much in the public eye, and always with advantage. Of his professional virtues others will speak with better right. But as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Great Exhibition and as, the author of 'A Theory of the Law of Storms,' he came prominently under the notice of a literary and scientific audience. As Chairman of the Great Exhibition he contributed signalily to its success. Yet if we were called upon to write his epitaph, we should simply add to his name, Author of 'The Law of Storms.'

A new literary institution—the Westbourne Athenæum—was opened on Thursday evening with a concert. One watches with some interest this movement towards the circumference of London. A central situation used to be the first need of a public building. But instead of public institutions crowding themselves, as of old, round Charing Cross, they now march into the suburbs, and plant

themselves close to the villas and terraces in which people live. We believe this is well—it certainly is successful. The suburban literary societies prosper while those in Leicester Square and the Strand expire of public neglect.

Mr. Peter Whittle has received a pension of 50*l.* a year from Lord Derby, on the ground of literary service.

Mr. Blaide announces one of those works which are the scorn of satirists and the delight of antiquaries and bibliophiles.—‘A Treatise on the Printed Books of Caxton.’ Mr. Blaide promises to give us—‘A few particulars (some new) in the life of William Caxton, with extracts from the original documents,—an essay on Caxton’s types and typography; with rules for ascertaining the dates of his undated works,—an exact collation of every work at present known to have issued from Caxton’s press (including several hitherto undescribed by bibliographers); with an account of about 400 volumes, now preserved in various public and private libraries of England, Scotland, and France,—some account of the ‘Caxtons’ contained in the chief public and private libraries of the last two centuries, with purchasers’ names and prices, when sold,—and an accurate transcript of all Caxton’s prologues and epilogues in their original orthography.’

An invisible gallery of living celebrities is a lucky idea. Mr. Amadio, of Throgmorton Street, must be a fine humourist. A series of heads not so large as pins’ points is given to the public, we infer, by way of satirical commentary on the rage which seems to possess well-meaning folks for distinguishing contemporaries, men of the time, living celebrities, and the like—in books and prints, in paint and crayon. Mr. Amadio’s series will be on glass; the first number is said (in a note charitably forwarded with this specimen) to be a portrait of the Author of ‘Nicholas Nickleby’; but having no microscope on our reading-desk we are unable to say whether this be a true description. Critics as we are, trained to the discovery of minute as well as large beauties in an author, we cannot find in the speck of dirty white on this glass a single trace of our humorous and sagacious friend.

The Architectural Photographic Association has arranged to hold a Second Exhibition of Photographs at the Gallery of the Old Water-Colour Society in December. The splendid architectural collections of Macpherson, of Rome, and of Cimetta, Venice, will be, we hear, exhibited.

An attempt is being made to secure a site for a Memorial to Caxton. The Westminster Palace Hotel will cover the proper site for such a testimonial, but it is hoped that a favourable spot may be obtained in the neighbourhood.

A second celebration of the Centenary of Burns is announced. Ayrshire, emulous of Glasgow, takes the field in behalf of its own poet—and means to have its peculiar feast and speeches. In such a rivalry we see no harm. Annual Burns dinners are eaten in every part of the world where Scotchmen thrive. Why is there no announcement yet for London?

We grieve to state that Frau Ida Pfeiffer, the well-known traveller, after long sufferings, died at Vienna on the 23rd of October.

The German Schiller-fest, to be celebrated in 1859, has awakened a project, at Venice, to celebrate next year, at Florence, a Dante festival. Literary and musical contributions (many of them from the poets and musical composers of Italy) are being collected for a work, which is to appear under the rather odd title ‘Corni e code,’ and the proceeds of which are to be made over to the Committee for the erection, at Florence, of a monument to Dante.

We hear from Munich that Dr. Franz Dingelstedt, Intendant of the Grand-Ducal Theatre, at Weimar, has purchased for the same, at the expense of 6,000 florins, the whole of the costumes, &c. used at the procession of the Seven Centuries on the recent jubilee of the town of Munich. The collection comprises costumes from the twelfth down to the nineteenth century,—all of them new, and solidly and splendidly got up, after the original drawings of the Munich artists. The purchase-money is small, considering the expense of the

costumes; but, if Weimar has made a good bargain, Munich, too, is pleased, to see the collection thus preserved as a whole,—whereas, if it had been sold by public auction (as was first intended), it would have been scattered piecemeal all over Germany and the world.

A little book of rather an odd form, but full of instructive and entertaining matter by Prof. H. F. Massmann, the old ‘Turnmeister,’ has appeared at Berlin. It bears the title ‘The High School. A Dream—[Die hohe Schule. Ein Traum.]’ To the friends of my youth, as a welcome and remembrance at the third centenary jubilee of the University of Jena.’ The little book will prove of interest to many besides those who have spent a number of their young years at the famous *Alma Mater* on the Saale; it teems with anecdotes, singularities, and traits of character from the life of professors and students, and is altogether a valuable and amusing contribution towards the natural history of that most odd species of odd fishes, the German *survivors*. To note a few of Prof. Massmann’s characteristic anecdotes:—‘Prof. Thomas Haselbach, of Vienna, lectured publicly for twenty-two years on the first chapter of *Isaiah*, without ever having come to an end; his colleague and admirer, Aegidius Guthmann, divided his lectures on the first five verses of *Genesis* into twenty-four volumes. Crusius lectured eight years on the *Psalms*, without going through the first half. Petrus Pontanus used to chalk on the doors of his lecture-room, when he was in his cups, a group of P’s, which meant, *Petrus Pontanus, Professor Publicus, Propter Pocula Prohibetur Prælegere*. Eobanus Hesse took a pitcher of wine with him into the pulpit, drinking a mouthful at every fine passage of the poet, on whom he was lecturing, till at last every passage appeared fine to him. Friedrich August Wolf, at Berlin, when he had no mind to lecture, or wanted to work for himself, used to put up a bill in his lecture-room, with the words, ‘I shall be ill for a week.’ Prof. Walch, at Göttingen, on the contrary, fell really ill during the vacations, because he could not then read to his auditory.’

SIXTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES AND WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, the Contributions of British Artists, IS NOW OPEN, at the French Gallery, 120, Pall Mall.—Admission, 1*l.*; Catalogue, 6*p.* Open from Ten till Five.

MR. ADOLPHUS FRANCIS has now OPENED—A Novel Entertainment, entitled, ‘SHADOWS: REAL and IDEAL’—‘Real’—36 Original Artistic Dissolving Illustrations from ‘Hamlet,’ with Recit. Part II. (Ident. Seymour Carleton’s Protean Stage) and His Illustrations of London, the Thames, the Harp, Miss Emily Cartleian. Every Evening at 8. Admission, 1*l.*; Reserved Chairs, 2*l.* Strand Drawing Room, 391, Strand.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Patron, H. R. H. Prince Albert, C. B., &c. Director, Mr. W. H. WOODWARD. AGE-MOLECULAR PHOTOGRAPHIC LIGHT, the RIVAL of the SUN. Exhibited and Lectured on by Mr. E. V. GARDNER, daily at half-past Three and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings at half-past Seven.—POPULAR SKETCHES OF POPULAR COMPOSERS. By Mr. T. L. COOK. Every Evening, in addition to all the other Novelties and Amusements. MANAGING DIRECTOR, R. I. LONGBOTTOM, Esq.

DR. KAHN’S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 3, Tichborne Street, opposite the Royal Exchange. Director, Dr. KAHN, who gives Lectures by Dr. Sexton at Three, Half-past Four, and Eight o’clock, on important and interesting topics in connexion with Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology (vide Programmes). Admission, 1*l.*—Dr. Kahn’s ‘Nine Lectures on the Philosophy of Marriage, &c.,’ sent post free, direct from the Author, on the receipt of twelve stamps.

SCIENCE

Cosmos: A Sketch of a Physical Description of the Universe. By Alexander von Humboldt. Vol. IV., Part I. Translated under the Superintendence of Major-General Edward Sabine. (Longman & Co.)

Cosmos: A Sketch of a Physical Description of the Universe. By Alexander von Humboldt. Vol. V. Translated by E. C. Otté and W. S. Dallas. (Bohn.)

The student of Nature lingers lovingly over her wonders, as they are gradually unrolled before him. In 1844, Humboldt wrote:—‘In the late evening of a varied and active life, I offer to the German public a work of which the undefined type has been present to my mind for almost half-a-century’;—and now, in 1858, we are presented with the first portion of

the Fourth Volume. Looking into the past, and surveying the varied and active life of this eloquent and aged philosopher, we find a youth whose

—joy was in the wilderness, to breathe
The difficult air of the iced mountain’s top,
Where the birds dare not build, nor insect’s wing
Flit o’er the herbleas granite; or to plunge
Into the torrent, and to roll along
On the swift whirl of the new breaking wave
Of river-stream, or ocean, in their flow.

In 1824, Humboldt gave to the world his ‘Aspects of Nature,’ a series of papers ‘which took their origin in the presence of natural scenes of grandeur or of beauty,—on the ocean, in the forests of the Orinoco, in the Steppes of Venezuela, and in the mountain wildernesses of Peru and Mexico.’ In 1849 we find Humboldt producing a new edition of this work, and saying, ‘In my eightieth year I am still enabled to enjoy the satisfaction of completing a third edition of my work, remoulding it entirely afresh to meet the requirements of the present time,’—and hoping ‘that these volumes might tend to inspire and cherish a love for the study of Nature.’

When we consider that the volume before us is the work of a man in his eighty-ninth year—of a man whose life has been one of laborious toil—we cannot but regard it as a surprising production. He discourses clearly, learnedly, and with much of his former eloquence, on the Density of the Earth, Subterranean Heat, Terrestrial Magnetism, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes. We have no other book in which the great phenomena of nature are so lucidly described and so carefully examined. In ‘Cosmos’ we have a digest of all the observations which men have made from the days of Pliny to our own time; and the results of experiment and thought, extended over an equally long period of time, are succinctly set forth. ‘Cosmos’ is not, it cannot be, in the modern sense of the term, a popular book; it is a work to be read over with care, and to be pondered on. For those, however, who desire to know, instead of to appear to know, such a book as ‘Cosmos’ is a time-saving treasure; the authority for every statement is given, so that the originals can always be referred to if desired.

The extent of learning which has been brought to bear upon the examination of the physical phenomena occurring around us may be well illustrated by the following quotation:—

‘Even more important than the form and height of volcanoes in their grouping, because it leads us to the great geological phenomenon of elevation over fissures. Such groups of volcanoes, whether they have been elevated, according to Leopold von Buch, in lines, or simultaneously around a central volcano, indicate the part of the earth’s crust in which (whether it may have been from the lesser thickness of the rocky strata, or from their nature, or from their original fissuring) the tendency of the molten interior to break forth has met with least resistance. Three degrees of latitude are included in the space in which the volcanic activity manifests itself fearfully in Etna, in the Eolian Isles, in Vesuvius, and the Phlegraean Fields from Puteoli (Dicearchia) to Cumæ and to the fire-vomiting Epeorus on Ischia, the Tyrrhenian Apæ’s Island, Ænaris. Such a connexion of analogous phenomena could not escape the notice of the Greeks. Strabo says, ‘The whole sea, beginning from Cumæ to Sicily, is traversed by fire, and has undoubtedly in its depths hollow passages communicating with each other and with the mainland. Such an inflammable nature, as is described by all, shows itself not only in Etna, but also in the country around Dicearchus and Neopolis, and around Baiae and Pithunse.’ Thence arose the fable that Typhon lies under Sicily, and that when he turns himself, flames and water burst forth, and sometimes even small islands and boiling water. Often, between Strongyle and Lipara (in this wide sweep), flames are seen to issue from the

surface of the sea, when the fire opens for itself a passage from the cavities in the depths, and violently forces its onward way.' In Pindar the body of Typhon is so vast that 'Sicily, and the sea-surrounded heights above Cumæ (Phlegra, the "field of burning"), lie on the monster's shaggy breast.' Typhon (the raging Enceladus) became in the Greek popular phantasy the mystic designation of the unknown cause of volcanic phenomena, lying deeply buried in the bosom of the earth. By the situation and space assigned to his bulk, they indicated the boundaries and connected action of the particular volcanic system. In the richly imaginative geological picture of the interior of the earth in Plato's grand contemplation of Nature, in the *Phædo*, this connected system is, with still greater boldness, extended to all volcanic systems. In it the lava-streams draw their supplies from the Pyriphlegethon, where, 'after it has often rolled round and beneath the earth,' it pours itself into Tartarus. Plato says expressly that in 'the fire-vomiting mountains, where such are found on the earth, small portions of the Pyriphlegethon are blown out. The expression, "driving out with violence," may be understood to refer to the motive force of the previously inclosed and suddenly and forcibly escaping wind, on which subsequently Aristotle, in his 'Meteorology,' founded his whole theory of volcanic action.'

As this volume is but an extension of the ideas of the former volumes, each of which have been fully noticed in the *Athenæum* [Nos. 929, 1059, 1080, 1224, 1275], it is not necessary to occupy space by explaining them now, further than saying, in all its fullness, it is a "Sketch of a Physical Description of the Universe," of which the grand picture has yet to be drawn; but it is the sketch of a master mind, the study of which must lead to the highest good. Into the merits of the two translations before us it is not our intention to enter. They both convey in a satisfactory manner the original thoughts; but it is right to remark that General Sabine has added to his translation much valuable matter,—'On the Ellipticity of the Earth,'—'On the Magnetic Disturbances,' with which remarkable phenomena, and with discoveries in connexion therewith, and their dependence on solar forces, the name of Sabine is so intimately connected,—and 'On the Solar Diurnal Variation of the Magnetic Declination.' Those Essays by General Sabine, which do not appear in the first edition of this volume in German, are being translated into that language, and will appear in the second edition.

Ordnance Survey. Account of the Principal Triangulation. Drawn up by Capt. A. R. Clarke, R.E., under the direction of Lieut.-Col. H. James, R.E. (Board of Ordnance.)

We shall say nothing to men of science, in reference to a work of which they can guess at the contents beforehand. They may go for themselves to the account of the bases, the triangulation with all its never-ending processes of correction, the results geographical and physical. Our present object is to say a few words to the reader who is not versed in trigonometry, relative to a great national undertaking. But though we ask no knowledge of our reader, we hold it rather desirable that he should not confound an *angle* with a *triangle*; and that he should concede that when the base of a triangle has been measured or calculated, and the angles at the ends of the base have been measured, the two remaining sides of the triangle can thence be calculated, not by him, but by those to whom it is given. If, further, he should have a hazy notion that by brazen instruments of complicated detail angles are very closely measured, and a firm resolution not to deny the utility of a book of logarithms because he himself only just knows how to place it right

side uppermost, he will be trigonometre enough for the purposes of this article.

The Ordnance Survey contemplates not merely making a far closer and better map of the country than any private enterprise could possibly approach, but obtaining the data for such a map with extreme accuracy, so as to determine also the figure of the earth, and to aid astronomy in various ways. This explains how, though the Ordnance Maps have been published for many years, it is only in 1858 that the scientific triangulation is presented to scientific men; and this only the large triangulation, the completion of the smaller one being in progress. A base being measured of many thousand feet with excessive accuracy, some distant visible point is taken for a vertex, the base angles measured, and the remaining sides calculated. These sides are then made bases of new triangles, other distant and convenient points are taken as vertices, and the new triangles are formed. This goes on until the whole country, England, Ireland, and Scotland, is covered with triangles. By a map in the volume of plates attached to the huge volume before us, we see that Ireland is fastened by this network of triangles to Wales in two places, to the Isle of Man, and to Scotland or the islands in four or five places. The stations of observation are often on lofty mountains, the heights of which must be very accurately measured, and closely allowed for in producing results. This is, we believe, about as much as we can say, upon the allowance of trigonometrical notion we suppose our readers to have.

The triangles with which the country is thus covered, and which form the groundwork of the map, are, in the first instance, of considerable size. Thus the triangle whose three vertices are on Whitehorse Hill, Arbury Hill, and Dunstable, has sides which, speaking roughly in miles instead of the surveyor's feet and decimals, are of 38, 49, and 47 miles. A triangle of this size begins to partake a little of the sphericity of the earth,—and this gives the calculator no small trouble.

The great Survey of the British Islands was commenced in 1783,—three-quarters of a century ago. Its management has passed through several hands. Properly speaking, however, what was commenced in 1783 was a triangulation, for the purpose of connecting the Observatories of Greenwich and Paris,—and it was not till 1791 that this operation was made the commencement of our present survey. In this last year also was commenced the trigonometrical survey of India, still in progress. The British survey has raised into reputation many now gone, and others still at the work. Roy, Mudge, Colby, and Kater are among the names familiar to the English man of science. Capt. Drummond—so well known during the progress of the Reform Bill, as private secretary to Lord Althorp—learned his remarkable habits of business in the conduct of the Survey. Lieut. Murphy, who sank under the climate in the Euphrates Expedition, was trained in the same school. Almost all the work has been done by commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers. Sergeants Steel and Donegan are noted as having been employed in observing with large astronomical instruments at ninety stations between them.

The nature of the observations required demands the close accuracy and attention to minutiae of the astronomical observer. The ordinary processes of the land-surveyor would be unequal to the task. The measurement of a base is an operation of many men, many instruments, and many days. The same base measured backwards and forwards is found, when well done, to present measurements differ-

ing only by inches upon tens of thousands of feet. And the same sort of difference, and no more, is found between a base measured at the conclusion of the process, as compared with its calculation by a series of triangles commencing, perhaps, hundreds of miles off. For purposes of mapping, then, the present Survey is conclusive; the materials are already better than are wanted: they are quite good enough for maps many times larger than any which could be used. The time may come when, owing to improvement of instruments and increase of knowledge, a new survey may be demanded for purposes purely scientific.

The map of Ireland is on the scale of five inches to the mile. We are told that in the titles given by the Encumbered Estates Commission, it is not uncommon to cut the estate out of the map and affix it to the document of title. This the reader will see can be done when he knows that a postage-stamp would count, in this large map, only for a field of sixteen acres. When thin lines are neatly drawn the hundredth of an inch apart, the eye very easily divides the distance into two halves. This two-hundredth of an inch represents, on the large map we speak of, a length of a little more than five feet. That is, a man lying on the ground would be represented by a dot of perceptible length.

SOCIETIES.

ASTRONOMICAL.—*July 9.*—Admiral R. H. Manners in the chair.—E. Clark and T. Noble, Esq., were elected Fellows.—Mr. Hind has forwarded to the editor a letter which he has recently received from Prof. Frisch, of Stuttgart, relative to the new edition of Kepler's Works which that gentleman is at present engaged in preparing for the press. It appears from the letter of Prof. Frisch that the republication in a complete form of the works of his illustrious countryman is an object to which his efforts throughout life have been constantly directed. He states that he is now in possession of most of the manuscripts of Kepler, embracing his correspondence as well as his astronomical works. These manuscripts have either been discovered by himself at different libraries, or have been communicated to him by the Messrs. Struve, of the Imperial Observatory, Pulkowa, to whom he expresses his obligation for intrusting him with that precious part of their library. The first volume was published about the end of last year. It contains a large number of letters, published for the first time, besides various other matters of interest. The second volume, which is now in the press, will comprise the optics and dioptrics, the essays on the satellites of Jupiter and the new star in the foot of Serpentarius, as well as several treatises which have not hitherto been published.—A new planet was discovered at Paris on the 10th of September by M. Goldschmidt. The following position of it was obtained at the Imperial Observatory:—1858, Sept. 10, R.A., 21h. 37m. 27.13s.; Decl., $-6^{\circ} 3' 28.0''$. Daily motion in R.A. = $-39s.$; in Decl. = $+1'$. The planet has received the name of Alexandra. It forms the fifty-fourth of the minor-planet group,—"Discovery of a New Comet," by Mr. H. Tuttle.—"A Method of 'Clearing the Lunar Distance,'" by Lieut. Raper, R.N.—"Observations of η Argus," by the Rev. A. Stock.—"Re-discovery of Encke's Comet, translation of Part of a Letter from Prof. Encke to the Astronomer Royal, dated Berlin, August 8, 1858."—"New Variable Star (U Capricorni)," by Norman Pogson, Esq.—"Additional Note on the Observation of a Solar Eclipse," by R. C. Carrington, Esq.—"Account of the Results of the Trigonometrical Survey in the Cape Colony," by T. Maclear, Esq.—"γ Virginis—Results of the Measures of this Binary Object for the Epoch 1858, as determined by Vice-Admiral Smyth, at the Hartwell Observatory, with a double-wire Micro-meter, under a power of 340."—Note from Capt. Jacob relative to the Ternary Star 51 Librae.—"Positions of the Solar Maculae and Faculae on the

day of the South American Eclipse,' observed at Redhill by R. C. Carrington, Esq.—'Results of the Observations of Small Planets, made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the month of June, 1858,' communicated by the Astronomer Royal.—'New Elements of Comet II., 1858, being an Extract of a Letter from Dr. Winnecke to Mr. Carrington.'—'Additional Note relative to the Approaching Conjunction of Venus,' by Prof. Madler.—'Occultation of a Scorpion, observed at Williamstown, Victoria,' by Mr. Ellery.—'Occultation of Regulus by the Moon, May 19, 1858,' observed by Capt. Noble.—'Elements of Comet III., 1858,' by Mr. A. Hall.—'Elements of Comet IV., 1858,' by Dr. Bruhns.—'Observations, Elements, and Ephemeris of Comet V., 1858,' by Dr. Donati.—'Re-discovery of Faye's Comet; Remarks on Encke's Comet (Extracts from a Letter from Prof. Encke, to the Astronomer Royal, dated Berlin, 1858, Sept. 11).—'Translation of Part of a Letter from Prof. Encke to the Astronomer Royal, dated Berlin, 1858, Sept. 26.'—'Elements of Calypso,' by M. Oeltzen.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Nov. 1.—W. Pole, Esq., Treas. and V.P., in the chair.—Mrs. E. A. Hambleton and C. F. Varley, Esq., were elected.

PHOTOGRAPHIC.—Nov. 2.—R. Fenton, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The Chairman read a letter from Sir Frederick Pollock regretting his inability to attend and take the chair as usual, it being the first day of Michaelmas term.—The Chairman introduced the new Secretary and Editor of the *Society's Journal*, Dr. Diamond, and stated that he would be welcomed by the Society with the same feeling with which he was welcomed by the Council; his appointment, he believed, would bring increased prosperity to the Society.—Major J. P. Mitford, Capt. Stileman, C. Rupell, W. H. Bolton, H. Bright, C. Clifford and J. A. Branfill, Esqrs., were elected Members.—A series of engravings by the new process lately discovered and patented by Mr. Fox Talbot were exhibited and much admired.—Mr. Malone exhibited a series of photolithographs, done by M. Poitevin's process, which for breadth and accuracy were very effective.—Mr. Dillwyn Llewellyn presented to the Society some choice specimens of the working of the oxymel process, as recently described by him in the *Society's Journal*;—Mr. Delamotte, a view of the Nave of the Crystal Palace, possessing much beauty and detail.—Messrs. Murray & Heath exhibited a magnificent monster camera, with a very ingenious new hinge, adding much to its stability.—A paper was read by J. Reeves Traen, Esq., M.R.C.S., 'On the Photographic Delineation of Microscopic Objects.'—A discussion took place, in which Mr. Shad bolt, Mr. Malone, Mr. Hughes and other Members joined.—Mr. Malone having described the mode by which photographs are transferred to stone, and the Chairman also Mr. Fox Talbot's new process of 'Photographic engraving,' from a letter to the Secretary, a desultory conversation ensued on the permanency of photographic pictures and the advantages of the printing by carbon, it was suggested that the subject of 'Carbon Printing' be brought before the next meeting.—The Secretary will be happy to receive any papers or specimens illustrative of that process to assist in the discussion then to take place.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. Royal Academy, 8.—'On Anatomy,' by Prof. Partridge.—Geographical, 8.—'Journey through the Mountain Districts North of the Elburz, and Ascent of Denzil Hill in Persia,' by Mr. Thomas Bowdich.—'Sands of Kerr,'—'Journey from Moreton Bay to Adelaide in Search of Leichhardt,' by Mr. Gregory.—'Exploration of the Murchison, Lyons, and Gascoyne Rivers, in Western Australia,' by Mr. Gregory.

TUES. Syro-Egyptian, 7.—'Ancient and Modern Antioch,' by Mr. Lewes.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—'Description of the Lisbon and Santarem Railway,' by Mr. Valentine.

—Zoological, 9.—Scientific.—'On *Syrtophis Novo-Hollandicus* in a State of Nature and in Confinement,' by Dr. Bennett.—'On Birds collected by Mr. Louis Fraser,' by Mr. Lewes.—'On the Lizards of the Madras and Bombay,' by Gen. Thompson.—'On the Species of the Fringilline genus *Erythrura*,' by Dr. Hartlaub.—'On New Species of Butterflies,' by Mr. Hewitson.

FRID. Astronomical, 8.

FINE ARTS

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—The Academy of Fine Arts at Stockholm have elected as members of their body Sir Charles Eastlake, Pres. R.A., Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A., Sir Charles Barry, R.A., C. R. Cockerell, R.A., and Prof. Donaldson.

Miss Martineau's pleasant, careful and picturesque Guide to the Lakes needed pictorial comments. It lies before us now, illustrated with steel engravings and woodcuts by W. J. Linton (Windermere, Garnett), shining in orange and gold, a handsome drawing-room table quarto, resplendent with glistening chromo-lithographs, steel engravings, and a flock of pleasant little vignettes, the work of Mr. Linton's learned hand, delicately wrought, though often simple and crude as diagrams. Mr. Ruthven has added a geological map, and other local scenes have contributed appendices of the meteorology of the Lake district, with a table of the heights of the mountains, and an account of flowering plants, ferns and mosses. A pictorial book has, suitably enough, blossomed into pictures which have turned its pleasant summer of graphic, thoughtful reading into a fresh spring of poetry. The pleasant Lake scenery, where Southey read, Wordsworth meditated, Coleridge rhapsodized, and De Quincey dreamed; where Prof. Wilson chatted with Scott and Canning; where poor Hartley lay to rest, and where, as to a shrine, for half a century, all the great of the earth repaired: peaceful Windermere, wild Keswick, and Ullswater and Wastwater,—they rise before us again as in the old pleasant book, or as seen through the mirage of the Lake poetry. Furness and Coniston, Ambleside and Grasmere, Lodore and Bassenthwaite, Skiddaw and Saddleback—they pass as in a diorama. We can go up through mists to Helvellyn, or go and see Long Meg and her daughters, stand by Wordsworth's grave under the Lion and the Lamb, or walk by the Cryer of Crie and hear the legend of the Ghostly Ferry-Boat. Again, as years ago, we can climb pikes, or watch the Ghylls bursting over slaty clefts or rocky ledges, and forces bursting through green feathery ashes, silver-dewed with the spray. Thoughts of that brave worker, Dr. Arnold, and sweet-souled Mrs. Hemans mix up with tales of the Druids and Romans, the Cliffords and Furness beacon, as we skim over this revived book. As for the steel engravings, we cannot say very much for them; they are rather dry, hard and unfeeling; the foreground generalized to insipidity, the distance clouded to nonentity. The chromos are smeared and blotchy. Their colour is harsh and raw, not unlike the first day or two's work of a water-colour amateur, where breadth is a dream and harmony a vision of the future. The woodcuts, though dry and liney, are, however, somewhat redeemed by their touchy cleverness and point. Take Windermere, from Miller Brow, for instance, with its processional trees, gleaming still lake, turbulent flow of mountain, and skurrying grey sky. Or take Furness, founded by King Stephen, with its hollow eyes of blind windows, and rejoicing trees pluming greenly and triumphantly over them. Coniston, by moonlight, from the Waterhead, is pale and limp—clear in tone, the moon surrounded by the worshipping clouds, with her radiance on their up-turned faces, and the long pillar of silver rising prone upon the water like the last pillar of some fallen Diana's temple, gleaming through the wave. The Old Man, from Brantwood, at sun-set, shows like a mountain of purple marble, the lake in a silver line lying at its foot. There is High Street mountain, with its guardian deer, their mitred horns rearing black against the smothery mist. The artist has made stray shots at all sorts of hidden lake beauties. Ullswater, for instance, tranquil as a good man's conscience, and Wall End, or Stake Pass, a mere ash-grey scoop between the spurs of mountains. There is Bassenthwaite lying at the end of the Keswick road like a giant's sword shining on its owner's grave,—and Derwentwater, that flows like a run of pure melted silver in a trench between the everlasting hills, where St. Cuthbert and St. Herbert used to meet once a year. No one describes better than Miss Martineau, with simple

graphicness, the scenes that were the raw material which Wordsworth wove into poetry. She can tell us how the dale-heads open out, and how the mountains wall-in the lakes like jealous giants guarding imprisoned beauties. She loves, with all the pleasure of old recollection, to describe how the Scree, for instance, sweep down to worship the grey, still beauty of Wastwater,—how they rush down from the south-east in unbroken, rocky phalanx,—how half-way down, before them, rushes a bastion of moraine or shifting débris, that when summer thunderstorms roll and pound above, or when winter tempests hurry and charge, come with thundering splashes into the lake, with slides of squadron stones and the smoke and dust as of a great battle.

Amongst objects of Art recently lent to the South Kensington Museum is a beautiful series of crystal vases, cups and spoons, &c., mounted in enamelled gold and jewels, belonging to the Marquis of Salisbury, and by him deposited there. They were contained in a silver-mounted case, which was found at Hatfield, some years ago, in a chest under a bed. Judging from the case, which is, however, of later workmanship, they appear to have come from Spain,—not improbably a trophy of war in Queen Elizabeth's reign. Together with these is a pair of silk stockings, the first made in England, and presented to Queen Elizabeth,—these also came from Hatfield. Dr. Bishop has also lent for exhibition a very beautiful bas-relief of Italian Art of the fourteenth century, a Virgin and Child, slightly coloured and gilt, supposed to be the work of Giotto. Both have been placed in the division of Ornamental Art.

The monument in honour of Albrecht Thaer, the founder and promoter of scientific agriculture in Germany, is progressing fast. The statue has been completed by Rauch, all but the casting in bronze, which has been done now. The monument, together with that in honour of Beuth, will be erected on the square before the Bau-Akademie, thus commemorating, as *pendants*, the principal representatives of Agriculture and Industry in Prussia.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.—Great and gratifying interest is manifested at the new Covent Garden, and the performances are well supported. The principal Chanceller is the Spanish Act Direct. Picturesque Scenery—Superb Appointments. Boxes, 3s.; Pit, 1s.; Galleries, 6d. Monday, and during the week, the performances will commence with the romantic drama, entitled 'THE WOODMAN'S WIFE,' introducing a Noble Company of Actors, and the first Stage of the new THEATRE. The Dramatic Performances commence and are sustained by Messrs. Holloway, W. Cooke, Anson, Francis, Mark Howard, Anderson, &c. To be followed by the imminable SCENES OF THE ARENA, in which Mr. W. Cooke, Mr. Runciman, Miss Kate Canning, &c., will appear. The new THEATRE is built to the favourite farce of 'FAMILY JARS.' No fees to Box Knaves. The Management beg to announce that an astounding Parisian Novelty is in preparation. The Art of Riding Taught. Stage Manager, Mr. R. Phillips. Carriages at Eleven.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—At the Princess's on Monday, Mr. Charles Kean revived his version of the tragedy of 'Macbeth,' as originally produced on the 14th of February, 1853. The scenery, costumes, and effects were not in the least impaired by repetition. Meanwhile, the acting was greatly improved. Mrs. Kean, who, as we formerly stated, has recovered her physical strength in a remarkable manner, sustained the part of *Lady Macbeth* with an intensity of purpose and a power of execution which entitle her to renewed attention. Her present conception of the character seems to be due to recent study, and is replete with points and emphases new in themselves, and demanding recognition on account of their originality as well as on that of their force. These remarks apply especially to her somnolent scene, which for detail and significance rivals the best in our recollection. There is a touch of the demoniac in it, and a stern sense of unpardonable guilt, accompanied with a remorse which is not repentance, that are truly terrible. The merit of the execution is great, and the attitudes and actions have been most carefully studied. The intention of the actress was evident to the audience, who rewarded her well-intended and indeed triumphant effort with enthusiastic applause. Mr. Kean, too, has become more decided in his delineation of *Macbeth*, which for vigour and intensity was inferior to none; but which has now received that finish which, sooner or later, this performer is enabled to impart to his dramatic portraits.

The New Royal Pavilion Theatre, Whitechapel, was opened on Saturday. It is to be, as we have already stated, under the management of Mr. Douglass, of the Standard. He proposes to devote it in the first instance to nautical melo-drama; but there is little doubt that gradually subjects of more importance will be attempted. The interior of the theatre is large and handsome, planned to seat an audience of 3,500 persons comfortably. The stage also is wide and capacious, being 70 feet in breadth and 58 feet deep. A superb chandelier is suspended from the ceiling, manufactured by Messrs. Defries & Son. The performances commenced with a new drama, in two acts, called 'The Sailor's Home,' a nautical piece, consisting of a series of stage-effects that serve to show the amount of scenic and mechanical illustration that it is proposed to employ in the representations at this house. A variety of entertainments followed. It is sufficient to say that all were well received.

'Wooing in Jest and Loving in Earnest' is the name of a new drama placed on the stage of the Strand Theatre by Mr. A. C. Troughton. It is a comediette adapted from 'L'Héritière,' a vaudeville by M. Scribe, and which, though limited to three characters, is a very lively affair. The plot turns upon the Machiavellian practices of an uncle who, not being very well disposed to marry *Widow Witchington* (Miss Swanborough) himself, because her four hundred a year is too moderate an income, desires to palm her off on a nephew, who is burthensome to him. He succeeds in interesting the parties in each other, and then finds too late that the lady is entitled to sixty thousand pounds. Consequently, he seeks to disgust the lady with his nephew, by informing her that the "wooing" on his part has been so far "a jest." For awhile his treachery prospers; but the young nephew, who has really learned to love the charming widow, is put upon his mettle, and ultimately out-maneuvres old *Machiavel*. Mr. Selby, by his representation of the latter character, has added another leaf to his laurels; and Mr. Parselle, as *Capt. Quick*, was a most effective lover. The little drama was remarkably successful.

Mr. Adolphus Francis, the Shakspearian reader, has opened the Drawing-Room, 391, Strand, for a novel illustration of his dramatic readings. On Saturday, he read 'Hamlet,' accompanied with dissolving views, partly taken from Retzsch's designs; and states that, should the plan succeed, he will employ artists to illustrate the other plays of Shakespeare in a similar way. He was aided in his experiment by Mr. Seymour Carleton, who gave his professional imitations after the reading. These imitations are very exact in general; but sometimes the execution is marred by the reciter falsifying the text. Mr. Carleton should be careful to be correct in this in the first instance. Of real success it is the only sure basis.

MISCELLANEA

The late Dr. Wollaston.—The eminence of Dr. Wollaston as a philosopher is well known; but his character for kindness and benevolence is less patent to the world. The following letter, written by him to his brother Henry, in answer to an application made to the philosopher to procure him a Government appointment, shows his amiable and generous disposition in a manner seldom met with, even among the most wealthy classes:—

April 10, 1823.

"My dear Henry,—I have long been prepared to prove how truly I respect your conduct through life, from first to last, and how willing I am to assist you in a way that I know I can. I wish it were in my power to procure for you the situation in the Customs you wish me to apply for, or any other where your talents, assiduity, and prudent management might be turned to certain account; but I decline making solicitations, with probability of gaining nothing, and with absolute certainty of forfeiting a portion of that independence on which my happiness in life depends. By the transfer which I inclose, I do not deprive myself of any of those comforts, or even indulgencies, to which I

† The inclosure alluded to was a stock receipt for 10,000. 3 per cents.

think myself entitled, for a certain amount of continued exertion and steady economy; and I shall live with the satisfaction of having disposed of a part of my property to the best account, instead of reflecting that I shall not live long enough to have occasion for it.—Believe me ever yours affectionately and sincerely, W. H. WOLLASTON."

Population of France and England.—The Tables with reference to the Populations of Great Britain and France, which I laid before the Statistical Society in June last, and which have been published in their *Journal*, do not precisely bear the interpretation you have put on them in the paragraph inserted in your journal on the 23rd inst., that "the population of France has decreased 10 per cent. in comparison to that of Great Britain." What my Tables attempted to show was, that in England we had many more children and people *under the age of 35*, in each million of the population, than existed in France; and that the difference, when we regard equal masses of the population, is more than 10 per cent. in favour of this country, *up to that age*. The following is an abstract of Table I., which gives a comparative view of the state of the populations of Great Britain and France:—

GREAT BRITAIN.		FRANCE.	
Total, 20,959,477.		Total, 34,860,387.	
Per cent. or No. in each 100,000.		Per cent. or No. in each 100,000.	
Age.		Age.	
Under 20	45,336	Under 20	39,183
20 to 35	24,583	20 to 35	23,644
	69,919		62,827
35 to 50	15,839	35 to 50	18,100
50 to 75	12,806	50 to 75	17,200
75 to 100	1,433	75 to 100	1,872
Fraction	3	Fraction	1
	100,000		100,000

I remain, &c., CHARLES M. WILLICH.

Standard Barometer.—Permit me to draw your attention to a slight error in your report of the remarks made by me (at the British Association Meeting) on the form of Mountain Barometer now made by Messrs. Negretti & Zambra. The omission, though only of the word "inches," completely destroys the sense of the passage, as our reader you will readily perceive. It should have read—"2 feet and under favourable circumstances within 18 inches." With respect to the cistern arrangement, I stated that "the construction was essentially that of a Barrow's Standard," and of course the cistern is made in the usual manner; the impossibility of showing so small an arrangement to the Section is self-evident, nor after the above statement did I deem it necessary.

I am, &c., G. J. SYMONS.

Camden Town, Nov. 2.

English at Pompeii.—This specimen of French done into English will amuse your readers almost as much as the Portuguese English in your number of Oct. 2. I copied it at Pompeii from the printed circular of the little hotel there:—

Hotel Restaurant Belle-vue à Pompei. Restorative Hotel, Fine-look at Pompei.

Cet hôtel tout récemment ouvert ne laissera rien à désirer pour la propreté des appartements et du linge pour l'excellence du service et pour l'excellence de la véritable cuisine Française. Étant situé à proximité de cette renaissance, il sera proposé à recevoir toutes familles quelconques, lessaines, demanderont résider alternativement dans cette ville pour visiter les monuments nouvellement trouvés et y respirer la salubrité de l'air.

Cet établissement évitera à tous les voyageurs, visiteurs de cette ville sépulture et aux artistes (vouant dessiner les antiquités) On y trouvera également un assortiment complet de vins étrangers, et du royaume, écuries et remises, le tout à des prix très modérés.

Yours, &c. G. C.

Merton, Norfolk.

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